Rush Is A Resounding Success

For the second time in two years, the format of rush at MIT has changed dramatically. No longer the three-day free-for-all of past years nor the extended mid-semester rush that exhausted fraternity members last year, Rush 2003 was ten days long, starting in early September. Like last year, the brothers of Delta Upsilon rose to meet the challenges of the changing rush system, successfully recruiting 13 new members.

While rush did not officially start until Friday, September 5, it unofficially began several weeks earlier when freshmen arrived on campus for orientation and pre-season athletic practices. Aside from the residence midways and other IFC-sponsored events on campus, DU brothers took freshmen out in small groups to dinner, billiards halls, and Red Sox games to begin forming personal relationships. We organized large dinners at the house, cooked by brothers such as Mike Kurd ’04, Justin Raveche ’03, Peter Sung ’05, and Nick Cordella ’06, and held house events at places such as Dave and Buster’s, a large arcade and pool hall, to expose freshmen to our entire brotherhood. We also hosted a barbeque on campus during registration day. Freshmen could stop by on the way to meetings and grab some food, play some pickup football, or just relax outside. This served as a great way to introduce ourselves to freshmen who had not yet made it across the Harvard Bridge into Boston.

Because of our hard work during the weeks leading up to rush, by the time rush started, we had already met and formed friendships with many freshmen, and many more were interested in the house. We weren’t satisfied with that, however, and made sure to publicize our rush kickoff event both by word of mouth and by handing out flyers. Sure enough, the roof was packed on the first night of rush, and the Ernest Goodlife Band, a local band from the Berklee School of Music, did not disappoint. They played everything from their own original songs to covers of artists like the Allman Brothers and Lyle Lovett. The weather was great, too, so everyone was able to enjoy the warm clear night on the roof deck.

The following morning was spent rock climbing. Thanks to brother Peter Sung ’05, alums Tom Becker ’03 and Andres Hernandez ’00, and rushwoman Libby Wayman, all of whom helped to set up for the event, brothers and freshmen were able to enjoy the morning outside, climbing and belaying at the granite quarry in Quincy. That night was another staple of rush, the lobster dinner, cooked by chef Dave Zeno and local alum Justin Raveche ’03.

The following day was spent on Lake Winnipesaukee in New Hampshire. Mike Kurd ’04 and his family were kind enough to let us use their house, as well as their the Berklee School of Music, did not disappoint. They played everything from their own original songs to covers of artists like the Allman Brothers and Lyle Lovett. The weather was great, too, so everyone was able to enjoy the warm clear night on the roof deck.

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State Of The House

We are currently pursuing a number of improvements at 526, but pursuing improvements and achieving improvement are two distinct things, unfortunately. Our “to-do” list includes, but is not limited to: repairing the water damage in first commons, including preventative maintenance in the second floor bathroom to prevent any future damage; a steel roof door as a much more durable replacement; a latch protector as a security measure for the back door; and replacing the fire doors on the back stairs. Temporary fixes for these problems were provided during the last work week at the end of August, but permanent fixes are in progress.

Completed tasks, as of this writing, are few, but they include one major project—the installation of a back-flow preventer for our sprinkler system. Also, the house manager is now clear of the busy fall rowing season. This means I will be taking a more hands-on approach in getting our new members up to speed on how to properly take care of the house. We plan to repair our damaged carpet-cleaner and make repairs to bring us up to fire-code standards. A year ago, Matt Theis ’05 challenged future house managers to meet his level of dedication, and it is truly a daunting task! However, I am currently striving to meet and surpass that benchmark. Keeping the house in good shape is one of my priorities this term. In the meantime, feel free to drop by the house anytime to revisit the Hallowed Halls.

Andy Hill ’05
The FSILG Cooperative

A small team of alumni volunteers led by Dan Geer has organized a new cooperative purchasing company, FCI, for the independent living groups at MIT. The idea is to use the leverage of volume purchases to save money. An energetic young executive director, Chris Rezik, was hired in August, and MIT has supplied an office (another example of practical support for the fraternities from the Institute).

The undergraduates reviewed the prospectus for FCI and decided to support the experiment by joining. The alumni paid the $500 participation fee, which is refundable if we decide to withdraw later. Our loyal cook, Dave Zeno, was not too enthusiastic about the prospect of working through another layer of management because he has developed good working relationships with his suppliers, but the promise of major savings was irresistible.

FCI has developed a website with lots of relevant information. Check it out at <http://www.fsilg.coop>.

Dave Latham ’61

Delta Upsilon And The Red Sox

Throughout the Red Sox’s amazing ride through the 2003 season, the brothers of Delta Upsilon were there. Brothers Geoff Ebeling ’04 and Cory Zue ’05 were there when the Sox clinched the playoff wildcard berth. A quarter of the brothers in the house were there when Pedro Martinez brushed Don Zimmer to the ground during the melee at the Fenway Park’s historic Game 3 of the American League Championship Series (ALCS). Patrick Petitti ’07 attended every home game in the playoffs. A host of brothers and alumni camped out overnight in front of the Red Sox ticket office, some for over 24 hours, to get tickets to the ALCS. “It was a great time. There were about 15-20 of us out there that night, just hanging out, playing cards, and trying to keep warm,” says Carter Powers ’05.

There’s something about the Red Sox that appeals to everyone. Although there are big-name players on the team, such as Pedro Martinez, Nomar Garciaparra, and Manny Ramirez, to all the fans in Boston, every player is big-name. At Red Sox games, you can find lots of people wearing the jerseys of “lesser-name” players like Todd Walker, Johnny Damon, and Jason Varitek. “The Red Sox have a great group of players on the team—they’re good guys who you just want to cheer for. They’re all crowd favorites in Boston.”

During the playoffs, the first commons area in the house would be packed each time the Red Sox played. A large number of the brothers who didn’t attend the game at Fenway gathered there with food and refreshments to enjoy the game and boo the Yankees whenever they had the chance. “There’s nothing like laughing at Derek Jeter when he strikes out swinging at a Wakefield knuckleball,” says Adam Was ’06.

Many brothers who arrive in Boston from around the country eventually find a place in their heart for the beloved Red Sox. Although native Californians Dave Lohrey ’05 and Grady Snyder ’06 have been lifelong Oakland Athletics fans, they rooted tirelessly for the Red Sox once their hometown team was eliminated.

“A big part of my development as a Red Sox fan comes from coming home after class and sitting down with a couple of brothers to watch the Red Sox game,” says Shang Chou ’04. “It’s always on, and with the all the enthusiasm my brothers have for the Red Sox, it’s hard not to get caught up in it. Even though I’m from LA and I root for the Dodgers, you gotta love the Sox.” “It doesn’t get better than this,” says Geoff Ebeling ’04, regarding the Sox and the post-season. “It just doesn’t get any better than this.”

Chris Leung ’04

Profile Of A Pledge: Oliver Venn ’07

Home: born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa

Interests and hobbies: surfing, triathlons, most outdoor activities

Choice of major: chemical engineering, with a biomedical engineering minor

Academic extra-curricular activities: doing an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program project on the metabolic state of yeast cells; also a member of the Biology Undergraduate Students Association

Athletics: plays driver on the MIT varsity water polo team

Residence: currently lives at Burton Connor, but is eagerly looking forward to moving into the house next year

House offices: current assistant risk manager, future risk manager (?)

Many thanks to

George S. Ahmuty ’46 and Charles J. Lawson Jr. ’43

whose kind gifts were recorded after the 2002-’03 honor roll went to press.
Delta Upsilon Brothers Dominate MIT Athletics

This year, the brothers of Delta Upsilon are once again making important contributions to MIT varsity athletics. With members on the water polo, crew, soccer, hockey, baseball, swimming, and lacrosse teams, Delta Upsilon’s presence is felt on all playing surfaces. Delta Upsilon also shows its leadership on the field by having the captains of the water polo, crew, soccer, swimming, and baseball teams. DUs are surely a driving force behind MIT’s athletic program.

Our water polo team consists of eleven DUs, led by Peter VanBuskirk ’04, the captain and All-American goalkeeper for the team. The team has recently been ranked 20th overall in the nation for all divisions and in the top five nationally for Division III. They have defeated Harvard twice in the past few weeks at home in the Zeisiger Center pool. Then over the weekend of October 18, we had pledge Will Tetler ’07 rowing in a boat led by captain Andy Hill ’05 in the Head of the Charles, which placed 8th overall, improving their time from last season by nearly a minute. The soccer team, led by all-time high scorer and captain Nick Nestle ’04, is slated to have one of the best seasons in MIT history. Nick is accompanied by midfielders Cory Mclean ’04, Doug Allaire ’04, Josh Walton ’05, and Mike Bridge ’06 as the core of MIT’s deadly offense. The swimming team, led by captain Nate Vantzelfde ’04, the hockey team, and the lacrosse team are also looking forward to great seasons this upcoming winter and spring.

Of the all the brothers who play varsity sports, eleven are freshmen. The pledge class of 2007 has taken on a big role in DU athletics with five playing on the water polo team, three on the lacrosse team, two on the swimming team, and one oarsman. DU looks forward to the spring to retain the heralded Octathon crown, another token of our athletic merit. We are also anticipating the domination of MIT’s intramural sports, including soccer, softball, tennis, and football. The tradition lives on.

Dave Levenson ’06

Rush Is A Resounding Success

(continued from page one)

rush, September 12, and the following two days were spent chasing new pledges around Boston as they tried to out-do each other with creative places to pledge. The brotherhood ran to Fenway, jumped off the Harvard Bridge, and even climbed the dome to welcome the class of 2007 into the fraternity. Rush this year was considerably longer than it has been traditionally, and I am extremely proud of how the entire brotherhood was able to come together during rush, all while balancing classes, athletics, and house responsibilities. We are excited to have the pledge class of 2007 join our chapter, and we look forward to their formal initiation next semester.

Nate Vantzelfde ’04

We are proud to introduce the pledge class of 2007, here in pledge order:

1. David Friend: Atlanta, GA
2. Nick Walrath: Pittsburgh, PA
3. Phil Cassel: Miami, FL
4. Jonathan Stolmeier: San Antonio, TX
5. Zach Brewer: Durham, NC
6. Kevin Amendt: Newport Beach, CA
7. Craig Edwards: Brookfield, CT
8. Danny Malconian: Exeter, NH
10. Oliver Venn: Johannesburg, South Africa
11. Pat Pettiti: Milton, MA
12. James Saffer: Charleston, SC
13. Peter Coles: Haddam, CT
DAVID N. LINDBERG ’39 writes, “I was house manager in 1938 during which time I replaced the kitchen stove. It was a pretty thing that brought tears to the eyes of Mandi, cook extraordinaire. I, too, had problems keeping the house in shape. Congratulations! I have lost my eyesight, so this was written by my daughter.” Say hello to Dave at 5757 Cypress Ave., #216, Carmichael, CA 95608.

ALBERT F. CLEAR ’42 can be reached at 344 Westmont, West Hartford, CT 06117.

EDWARD H. CUMPSTON ’46 recently moved to 2016 Viewpoint Dr., Naples, FL 34110.

ROBERT L. KLAUSMEIER ’48 resides at 2516 Deepwood Dr., Wilmington, DE 19810.

WILLIAM REED ’50 has been issued a new and “improved” address by his local fire department: 1957 Main St., Fayette, ME 04349. His e-mail address is echopond@aol.com.

Davvid V. Larson ’58 is retired now and lives at 373 N. Bay Dr. NE, #2, Longville, MN 56655; dvlsn@tds.net.


GEORGE T. BORTON ’65 writes, “After a 37-year career with Dow Chemical as a project manager, I retired with my wife, Helena, to Venice, Florida, last year. We’re still busy enough getting settled that we haven’t had time to do everything we’d like to do. My wife is Portuguese, raised in Angola, and thanks to some help from my career moves, has managed to live on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. We’d like to continue our travels so we can experience some of the cultures we have so far missed. We have two sons and a daughter, along with two grandchildren.” Send greetings to George at 717 Fringed Orchard Trail, Venice, FL 34293; gtborton@comcast.net.

WILLIAM C. SAMUELS ’65 (139 East 19th St., New York, NY 10003; wcs@nyc.rr.com) writes, “2003 has been a great year—been active on the John Kerry campaign—sold ACTV to Liberty Media and started new wireless company. I’m also the happy dad of a six-year-old girl.”

EDWARD KAVAZANJIAN ’73 writes, “I am happy to report that, in addition to consulting on geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering from my home in Huntington Beach, California, I have an appointment as a professor of civil engineering at USC, where I work on earthquake engineering and waste management research projects.” Say hello to Ed at 7241 Seashark Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92648; edkavy@alum.mit.edu.

ALBERT C. BASHAWATY ’84 recently moved to 177 Flacon Cresent Rd., Middlebury, CT 06762; bash@i-2000.com.

ALAN T. RUDY ’86 (7805 Brandon Rd., New Albany, OH 43054; arudy@intogreat.com) writes, “Sold my company, Express-Med, Inc., last year. Retired for a week, got bored. Now I have six companies under management in our VC firm. My wife Ellen, son Brian (going off to college this year—a las, MIT does not offer a degree in fashion design), son Chase (6), and daughter Alexi (4), are loving our Midwestern life here in Columbus.” Alan is the president of Into Great Companies.

TODD C. MALONE ’87 writes, “I am now one year into starting my own electronic architecture design business in San Francisco. Even with the down economy, interest in security and home theaters is still strong for people remodeling homes in this area! I spent July 4 with AARON WARNOCK ’88 and his wife, Sani, who live in San Mateo, and I frequently see ED MARTINAGE ’86 and TIM BURKS ’86 down in Palo Alto.” Stay in touch with Todd at 1360 Washington St., #5, San Francisco, CA 94109; tmalone@alum.mit.edu.

MICHAEL S. DORSCH ’90 reports a new address of 42803 Songbird Court, Asuburn, VA 20148.

JEFFREY M. MEYER ’90 recently moved to 1635 Chestnut St., San Francisco, CA 94123; jeff.meyer@alum.mit.edu.

“After a few years out of touch with The Beacon,” writes KENNETH M. SHIMBERG ’91, “I was pleased to see how well things are going at the Hallowed Halls! Bet-sy and I moved back to the Northeast in 2002 when I accepted an offer to manage a portion of Brown’s endowment. Naomi (4) and Daniel (2) keep us out of trouble. We regularly see TOM COLE ’91, Laura Pitone and their son, Ethan. We can be reached at 120 Canterbury Lane, East Greenwich, RI 02818; kshimberg@alum.mit.edu.”

WILLIAM K. LOGAN ’99 is a senior consultant at Open Wave, based in Redwood City, California. He recently moved to 18184 W. 155th Terrace, Olathe, KS 66062; will.logan@openwave.com.

JEFFREY L. STEINHEIDER ’99 has a new address of 1230 Massachusetts Ave., #6, Arlington, MA 02476; jstein@alum.mit.edu.

WILLIAM NOON resides now at 2864 Glassco Ave., Riverside, CA 92509; wnoon@alum.mit.edu.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of RALPH E. CROSS SR. ’33 on June 26, 2003.