The DU Beacon

Newsletter of the Technology Chapter

Delta Upsilon Fraternity

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

SPRING 2003

From The Alumni President —

The Association Of Independent Living Groups

The AILG is a loose organization of alumni volunteers representing most of the fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups (FSILGs) at MIT. Perhaps the most useful activity of the AILG is a regular series of breakfast meetings, four times a year. MIT provides a meeting room and food, and most of the MIT staff involved with FSILGs participate. Over the years, these meetings have led to very useful exchanges of information and points of view between MIT and the alumni volunteers working in the trenches.

Occasionally, the exchanges at these meetings have become heated. A few of the alumni appear to be convinced that MIT has a hidden agenda and is out to get the fraternities. In a couple of memorable confrontations, individual alumni have declared that they will no longer donate to MIT, but will instead direct their giving to the alumni corporation of their fraternity.

While it is true that a few of the MIT fraternities will most likely go out of operation as a result of the decision that all freshmen must live on campus for the first year, I see no good evidence that MIT has a hidden agenda towards this end. Actually, there is evidence to the contrary. For example, over the past three years, MIT has added several new staff members to work with the fraternities. Regrettably, the staff turnover rate has been high, and the fraternities have not seen the stability and depth of experience that we enjoyed when Neal Dorow was the key man. Phil Clay, the provost, has repeatedly gone on the record to state that the fraternities continue to play an important role in undergraduate life at MIT, and the institute has backed this up with significant funding to soften the first three years of the freshman transition.

One of the disadvantages of donating directly to a fraternity instead of MIT is that essentially all of the alumni operations are 501(c)(7) corporations, and the donations are not tax-deductible—except in special cases of fundraising where a qualifying grant program has been established and the money can be channeled through MIT. In an important recent development, there is now a bill before Congress, HR 1523, that would make all donations to 501(c)(7) corporations that house college students tax-exempt.

If you choose to divert your giving from MIT to DU, that is, of course, your prerogative. We will certainly continue to strive to use all donations in a prudent manner. A good alternative that preserves the tax-deductible status of your gifts is to continue to donate to MIT and designate the Independent Residence Development Fund (IRDF) as the recipient. Such gifts cannot be directed to DU, but will undoubtedly help keep the fraternity system as a whole strong. Since I serve as the chairman of the board of allocation for the IRDF, I can promise that we will also continue to strive to use those funds prudently.

Dave Latham ’61
Alumni President

The Year In Review

As the 2002-2003 academic year draws to a close, the Technology Chapter is in great shape. Although freshmen were not allowed to live in the house, 13 pledges were initiated into our brotherhood this March. Some MIT fraternities have suffered because of the new freshman housing policy; however, our pledge class of 2006 is exceptional and will contribute much to the house. All of the upperclassmen are excited to begin living with the ’06s, all of whom plan on moving into the house this fall. Much of the credit for this year’s successful rush and initiation goes to Rush Chairman Aaron Fernandes ’03 and Pledge Trainer Jon Jackson ’03.

As one class begins its journey though DU, another leaves the house. Certainly, the 15-member class of 2003 will be sorely missed. Their diversity and leadership have been truly immeasurable in shaping the character and (continued on page three)
DU Sails Through New Rush Process

With the inception of the new rush system at MIT, many fraternities were not only worried about freshmen accepting bids, but also making it through the new member education program. DU was similarly concerned that our rate of de-pledges might rise. During various discussions in the spring term of last year, we decided that the core of our pledge program was still viable. Obviously, assigning the new members dinner waitings and such no longer made sense, as they were not living in the house. However, we still held weekly pledge meetings and Friday works to encourage their presence at the house, as well as to teach them about our history and chapter traditions. And of course, no pledge experience would be complete without the unique experience of Help Week.

Due to the loss of the first five weeks of the semester, we ran into scheduling issues with all of the pledge and brothers' events during the first term. It seemed that every single weekend was taken up by traditions such as the pledge trip, Endicott, or the formal.

At times, it definitely became overwhelming for some of the pledges and brothers to manage everything. However, next year when rush starts at the very beginning of the semester, we should not have this problem.

Our new member education program proved to be strong enough for the new rush system. We initiated 13 out of our 14 pledges, and all 13 will be living in the house next year. While the pledging experience is now vastly different due to the living situation, much good has come out of the change. The pledge class unity is stronger and was achieved more quickly than it has been in past years. Also, our pledge class has much stronger ties on campus, including the Inter-Fraternity Council, than we have seen in previous years.

While we will be modifying and tweaking our program next year, we are proud that we did not have to change much to accommodate the vastly different rush system. The unique experience and bonds that are formed in Delta Upsilon can be recognized even when the new members are not living in the house. When we asked the new members if they had any reservations about moving in, the unanimous tone of the answers was, "I wish I could move in right now."

Jonathan Jackson '03
Pledge Trainer

Pledge Impressed With DU Chapter

Rush started for me during my senior year of high school when I came up to stay overnight at MIT for the first time. I had been in contact with Coach Alessi about the lacrosse program, and he set me up with one of the captains to take a tour of the school. After lacrosse practice that day, I ended up back at DU because Jon Jackson had offered to put me up in his room (he was the DU president at the time). This was my first time setting foot in a fraternity, and to be honest, I didn't know MIT had fraternities until that point. I don't remember much about DU from that first visit, but I definitely had a good time and felt a positive vibe and a sense of community that I didn't expect to see in this haven for geniuses.

When I arrived on campus in August '02, I was really excited and also scared. I'd grown up with the same group of friends all the way through high school, and I didn't really want to put too much effort into meeting new people (sounds bad, but it's true). I actually met Armando Ibarra '06 during our pre-orientation Freshman Urban Program, but I had no idea until about a month later that we were both potential DUs.

For the first month of school, all I did was seek out free food like a vulture. Barbecues were the first events where I started meeting people and matching names to faces. I remembered that I had stayed at a fraternity when I visited, but I couldn't think of the name until I saw Sam Sarcia '04 at a barbecue one day in a DU shirt. I liked the fact that the DUs were playing football and having a good time. The brothers seemed to be genuinely enjoying themselves, and I wanted to be a part of it. They put me on a team, and a few plays later I caught a sick "hail mary" touchdown pass. DUs welcomed me and started treating me like a friend from day one, which is what I needed in this strange new place.

I got flyers from all of the different fraternities, and they were all having similar activities, so I thought I'd divide my time and do a couple at each place. I had lobster and went mini-golfing at PKT, and I went to see Space Station 3D in IMAX with the brothers from ZBT. I was spending most of my time at DU, however. I went to a Red Sox game, had lobster on the roof deck, saw an Improv show, and went to Cheers for dinner. All of the events were fun, but I was still torn between the fraternity and my dorm. I was still sleeping in the

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The State Of The House

I had little idea what I was getting myself into when I undertook the position of house manager for the fall term of 2002. I immediately became frustrated with the house and the brothers. We appeared behind in all of our inspections, and things were breaking left and right. With diligence, however, I brought the house up to speed.

I am proud to say that we are up-to-date on all of our inspection certificates and that the house is in great order. The television cable throughout the entire house has been rewired for a better picture and more channels. The showers have all been regouted with a little help from the freshmen, and the common areas repainted. A thorough cleaning of the kitchen took place over the independent activities period. Even Chef Dave Zeno was impressed when he returned this semester!

Problems with the dashpot on the front door have been overcome, and the door swings to a close softly and quietly. A temporary doorbell has been installed while the chime mechanism is being replaced. For the first time since I have been here, all of the chairs in the dining room have been repaired! As if that were not enough, the floors have been redone. They are silky smooth and glow under the gentle phosphorescent lights of the house. You may ask yourself why we leave the house at all! The house is in great shape, and I challenge future house managers to keep it in such excellent condition.

Mathew Theis ’05

Pledge Impressed With DU Chapter

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I lost interest in the other fraternities, so my decision basically came down to DU or not-DU. After calling my dad and getting the “You’re a man now...I can’t make decisions for you” speech, I decided that I couldn’t pass up the opportunity to roll out of bed into a rush event.

The best thing about the canoe trip was getting away from campus and becoming one with DU and with nature. I laughed that day like I hadn’t laughed since I was sitting at the lunch table in high school. Throwing mud helped me to vent some aggression as well. More importantly, I noticed on this trip that the brothers were having fun themselves, not just doing things to cater to the freshmen. I was impressed by that. On one hand, I wanted to be welcomed; on the other hand, I didn’t want to be pressured.

The Year In Review

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As always, brothers continue to be involved on campus. Many brothers participate in varsity and intramural athletics, student governments such as the Inter-Fraternity Council and the Undergraduate Association, and have research positions with professors. Our house GPA for the fall semester, a 4.1, was above the MIT average. On top of our academic and extracurricular responsibilities, we still manage to have a great social life. The winter formal at Anthony’s Pier 4 and the rush women’s semiformal were a lot of fun and a great change of pace.

Once again, we are indebted to Dave Latham ’61 for all of his wisdom and help in maintaining the house. Also, Chef Dave Zeno continues to be a good friend and provides great food for 40 hungry men. Please, if you are in the Boston area, feel free to come by the house. If you have any questions, contact me at mselly@mit.edu.

Yours fraternally,
Mark Sellmyer ’04
Chapter President

Moved recently? Getting married? Had kids? Tell us about it! Send in your newsform!
Profiles In Graduation:

Nicholas Abercrombie  
Hometown: East Lyme, CT  
Major: aero/astro engineering  
Plans: graduate school

Marius Hauser  
Hometown: Lexington, MA  
Major: mechanical engineering  
Plans: undecided

James Brady  
Hometown: Long Beach, CA  
Major: environmental engineering  
Plans: environmental consulting in Long Beach

Jonathan Jackson  
Hometown: Naperville, IL  
Major: computer science  
Plans: graduate school

Collins Ward  
Hometown: Fort Worth, TX  
Major: mechanical engineering  
Plans: undecided

David Hensle  
Hometown: Montclair, VA  
Major: computer science/brain & cognitive sciences  
Plans: fixed income trading for Banc of America in NYC

Thomas Becker  
Hometown: Rockaway Park, NY  
Major: economics  
Plans: undecided

Scott Mahar  
Hometown: Poughkeepsie, NY  
Major: nuclear engineering  
Plans: graduate school

The DU Beacon is published regularly by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Chapter of Delta Upsilon. News contributions, changes of address, and photographs are welcome and should be sent to Alumni Records Office, Delta Upsilon Fraternity, P.O. Box 390575, Cambridge, MA 02139-0007.
Our Seniors Take A Bow

MARK KASTANTIN
Hometown: Riva, MD
Major: chemical engineering/
brain & cognitive sciences
Plans: graduate school

ARON FERNANDES
Hometown: Westport, MA
Major: computer science
Plans: graduate school

RYAN WAGAR
Hometown: Cleveland, OH
Major: materials science &
engineering
Plans: graduate school

JUSTIN RAVECHE
Hometown: Hoboken, NJ
Major: management
Plans: undecided

COLIN GALBRAITH
Hometown: Clearwater, FL
Major: materials science &
engineering
Plans: materials engineering at
Ball Aerospace in Colorado

MATTHEW WALDON
Hometown: Chapel Hill, NC
Major: electrical engineering/
management
Plans: graduate school

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

Send greetings to ROBERT L.
KLAUSMEIER ’48 at 2516 Deepwood
Dr., Wilmington, DE 19810.

“I spent less than a year at MIT,” writes
WILLIAM REED ’50, “but the best part
of that was knowing and joining DU with
a bunch of great pledges. I ultimately got
my degree (in fine art) at GWU in DC,
spent over 40 years with an exhibit de-
sign firm in northern Virginina, and last
year retired to this new address in South
Central Maine (about 20 miles west of Au-
gusta, Maine). Married with two kids, one
a doctor, one teaching blind children. I
have through the years resisted the offers
of various volumes of graduate bios, but
I would love to know what has happened
to the other members of my pledge class,
including PRESSLEY JONES ’50,
DAVID SUTTER ’50, ERIC AN-
SCHUTZ ’50, and LES SLOCUM ’51.

Cordially, Bill.” Write to Bill at his new
address: RR2, Box 1230, Fayette, ME
04349; echopond@aol.com.

Keep in touch with EDWARD C.
EHRLICH ’55 at 48 River Club Dr.,
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926.

RICHARD U. BAYLES ’63 recently
moved to 4720 Pine Harrier Dr., Saraso-
ta, FL 34231. His e-mail address is
ruboyles@alum.mit.edu.

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“I am very happy to read of the chapter’s service involvements in the community,” writes PATRIC DAWE ’65, “and its maturity regarding the current freshmen-on-campus policy. You all are doing a great and mature job with all of this. And still, the chapter sounds like the fun, active, high-energy place where I’d like to live if I were doing it all over again. Keep up the great work!” Patric is the director of urban design at RNL Design in Denver, Colorado. Say hello at 2805 E. 4th Ave., Denver, CO 80206; pat.dawe@rnldesign.com.

MICHAEL HURST ’70 works as vice president of product marketing at deNovis, Inc. He reports, “Having raised $77 million by fall ‘01 and demise of ‘e’ business, we renamed from eHealthDirect to deNovis, Inc., and moved forward. As the primary corporate and product demonstrator and presenter, I am happy to report that we finally are moving to commercial release stage of our enterprise class health insurance administration software. See www.denovis.com.” Michael can be reached at 3 Eastwood Rd., Windham, NH 03087; mwhurst@alum.mit.edu.

JOHN KAVAZANJIAN ’72 writes, “I’ve decided that I am so unhappy about how MIT is treating the fraternities that I will be sending the money I usually send to MIT—to the DU house. I urge my brothers to do the same and let MIT know.” John is the president and CEO of UltraLife Batteries. Stay in touch with him at 2 Buckhorn Run, Victor, NY 14564; johnk@alum.mit.edu.

EDWARD KAVAZANJIAN ’73 is self-employed and lives at 7241 Seashark Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92648; edkavv@alum.mit.edu.

“My son is a legacy!” reports PAUL BENTON ’75. “President of the DU chapter at the University of Oregon. I am working as a consulting architect and engineer and daughter stayed with us last summer, and our son, Ryan, stayed with Shin in Japan.” Courtney can be reached at 109 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906; courtmac@alum.mit.edu.

PETER HICKMAN ’85 recently moved to 414 Washington St., Westfield, NJ 07090; peter.hickman@spcorp.com.

JASON JONAS ’88 and his wife, Robyn, are pleased to announce the birth of a son, Gage Patrick, on May 3, 2002. They’re back in the Houston area after a brief stay in Austin. Jason is still working for Schlumberger as a project manager. Their stepson, Tony, has just turned 18 and bought himself a car. Send congratulations to Jason and Robyn at 4807 Lake Creek Circle, Missouri City, TX 77459; rjjonas1@juno.com or jjonas@slb.com.

JEFF KARANDJEFF ’88 recently moved to 828 Homestead Rd., LaGrange Park, IL 60526; jpkjpjkjp@aol.com.

Note the new address for JOHN MARROQUIN ’89: P.O. Box 160892, Big Sky, MT 59716.

NABIL ISTAFANOUS ’90 writes, “Anne-Marie and I are expecting our first child. We are very excited. We recently bid adieu to Chris Massa ’90 from Seattle as he moved back to northern Virginia. We regularly see STEVE BULL ’90 and his lovely wife, Christiana, and daughter, Anika. We welcome visitors to the northwest.” Send greetings to Nabil at 7346 56th Ave., NE, Seattle, WA 98115; nabilistafanous@hotmail.com.

“This is my first Beacon update!” writes ERIC OLIVER ’90. “A few years ago, I started an energy consulting company, EMO Energy Solutions, here in the DC area. Things are going well, and Melissa and I are expecting a junior engineer in June. I run into DU alums all the time, most recently at NEELAN CHOKSI’s (’92) Superbowl party.” Send congratulations to Eric at 2832 Edgelea Rd., Vienna, VA 22181; emo@emoenergy.com.

RAHUL SHENDURE ’95 is a manager of product strategy at Ballard Power Systems in Vancouver, British Columbia. He reports, “Sailing and scuba diving with BRAD PEARSON ’95, DAVE BRANDENBURGER ’95, and DEBTOSH CHAKRABARTI ’94 in the Caribbean this spring!” Say hello to Rahul at 3303 NE 80th St., Seattle, WA 98115.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

PAUL M. COX JR. ’61
August 30, 2002

ALBERT G. DEAN ’31
November 30, 2002

LEON van SPEYBROECK ’57
December 25, 2002