OMICRON 2011–2012

Presenting the Class of 2015
After summers spent exploring Southeast Asia and Spain, Goldman Sachs and Google, alternative energy and the origin of the cosmos, Phi Sigs gathered together this August ready to kick off a stellar school year. While the Institute as a whole has been celebrating its 150th anniversary across the river, we have not been idle here at 487 Commonwealth. An exciting series of renovations and a successful Rush have laid the groundwork for a fall that we hope to see through with further renovations, a revamped social calendar, and a smooth pledge process.

Both returning brothers and visiting alumni have had their breath taken away by our newly renovated dining room. Jake Jurewicz ’14 both led and was the primary contributor to the project, completed almost entirely between the spring and fall semesters. From computer drawing to contract to finished project, he attended to each and every detail. Renovations have not stopped there; read Vice President Edward Obropta’s (’13) article below to learn about our ambitious but successful Fall Work Week and our plans for the 2nd Landing Bar.

None of this would have been possible without a well-run summer session at Phi Sig. Summer Housing Coordinator Matthew Skalak ’13 filled the house and annex to capacity with brothers and renters, keeping Summer Housing Manager John Reynolds ’13 busy between semesters. The combined hard work of these officers and the brotherhood during work week left the house looking brand new as we headed into Rush. With the physical plant in great shape and brothers high in energy after summers around the world, an atmosphere of invincibility carried us through Orientation and into Rush proper. Luke Schiefelbein ’13 and I helped the house maintain their efforts throughout the week and were rewarded with a stunning pledge class of 21 new Phi Sigs. A big thanks to Joe McMahon ’85, Jason Mondanaro ’96, and Paul Walsh ’84, who stopped by to welcome new pledges with traditional Saturday Morning waffles. The welcome certainly did not end there as the pledge process, led by Inductor Ben Lewis ’13, is already well under way.

Facing forward, we hope to repeat many of the successes of the last two semesters while expanding in certain areas. Last year Gordon Wintrob ’12 spearheaded a Reid Weedon Award-winning revamp of our Alumni program, doubling attendance at our annual Alumni Meeting and Dinner, a tradition we hope to maintain, especially our new renovations in place. Also on the agenda are small re-arrangements to the pledge calendar and an expansion of the social calendar that should increase brother and pledge enthusiasm and involvement, even in the face of MIT’s new mandatory dining plan. Thanks to Social Chairs Biafra Ahanonu ’12 and Matthew Skalak ’13 and the Phi Sig Athletes on more than a dozen sports teams, a few extra parties and plenty of sports games should keep everyone busy for the semester. Classes ’12 through ’15 have also been lucky
enough to greet several recent alumni, both local and far-flung, who have visited within a month of the start of classes: Gleb Kuznetsov '10, Ted Tomlinson '10, Ballin Smith '10, Edward Grinnell '11, Minh Phan '11, Matthieu Talpe '11, Josh Wang '11, Jake Shapiro '11, Javier Duarte '10, and David Somach '11 have all already made appearances back at the house, and we look forward to welcoming many more! With this much enthusiasm, both undergraduate and graduate, we know we can look forward to another year of success here at Phi Sig.

**Vice President**

**Eddie Obropta ’13**

I feel more than prepared to have a successful term, but managing a house of over forty brothers will always present an intriguing and exciting challenge to even the most respected executives. **Matt Skalak ’13** is the Junior Vice President and will be assisting me in all VP related quests.

The VP Department was exceptionally active over this past summer with **John Reynold’s’(’13)** leadership as housing manager intertwined with the construction knowledge of **Jake Jurewicz ’14**. Jake led a team of brothers and contractors to completely renovate the dining room! After brothers fervidly demolished its white walls in a whirlwind of hammers and crowbars the contractors arrived to laser scan the chapter room walls. They succeeded in perfectly defining the angles and curves of the dark wooden walls of chapter room and recreated the masterpiece within the dining room. The beautiful dining room is now a pleasure to all that enter its doors. It is initially dumbfounding when your mind tricks you to believe you are in the Chapter Room, but you actually have the view of Beacon Street.

Fall Work Week was heavily loaded with projects, but with a focus on logistics and teamwork all of the projects came to a close. The major projects included hardwood flooring in Grand Central, hardwood flooring in 2R, steps out of Caddyshack, social projects, and a new commercial-grade weight room floor. The project leaders were respectively, **Andy Goessling ’12, Isaac Bleicher ’12 & Antony Speranza ’12, Matt Skalak ’13, Rob Wheeler ’11, and Gordon Wintrob ’12**. All of the brothers worked tremendously hard.

**Jake Jurewicz ’14** has continued the quest for improvement with the last piece that remains on the second floor of the house, the bar! Demolition has already begun and within the next two weeks, a team of contractors will be installing a sophisticated new bar to match the chapter room and dining room. Its design captures the heart and soul of Phi Sig and will be the house’s center of symbolism and passion. Embellished with Phi Sig carvings and accented with reflective mirrors, the bar will boldly proclaim, “Damn Proud.”
The Fall of 2011 shows the Omicron Chapter of Phi Sigma in a very solid financial standing. After a significant surplus over the course of last term due to saving on utilities, a larger than expected income for summer rent, as well as the accumulation of surpluses over the past few previous terms, the house has accumulated a large cash reserve. This comes at an opportune time, as we are also undergoing various significant capital expenditures, including the complete renovation of the dinning room and bar. Other capital projects that are coming maturity are the possible replacement of oriel windows in the annex, and the refinishing of the Chapter Room paneling.

Most capital improvements are funded by the Alumni Association which had been experiencing a revenue pinch. Therefore the chapter will begin funnealing our surplus cash back to Alumni Association through an increase in rent for the house. With this balance of cash, as well as the new business tenants of the annex basement paying rent and generous donations from Alumni from the current capital fund raising campaign, both arms of Phi Sig’s finances will be in a very solid financial state throughout the next fiscal year. After a flat house bill rate for the past four years, the officers table has decided to make a modest increase ($160/term) that will still leave house bill ($3660/term) at slightly below average for MIT fraternity rates. This increase is being used in part to fund increased internet bandwidth for the house’s current underpowered system, but will also fund the increase in Alumni rent, as well as an increased cost of living in general.

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### FY 2011-2012 Budget Highlights

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### Treasurer

**Luke Schiefelbein ’13**

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### Sentinel

**John Reynolds ’13**

We have seen large changes in the Commissary department in the past two semesters. The kitchen was reorganized, new cooking equipment purchased (including a new stand-alone mixer), and brothers are now treated to a revitalizing cup of freshly ground coffee through our new commercial grade single-cup coffee machine.

Brothers are proud that we cook for ourselves, especially with the new dining plan on campus this year. We have better quality meals and more familial atmosphere than on-campus dining halls without the multi-thousand dollar bill that comes with the on-campus plan. Dinners served on new dinnerware coupled with the energy and enthusiasm that comes when putting a group of Phi Sigs in a room, has pledges excited and elated to come to the house at 7:30 pm for a meal. In addition, midnight meals have taken the opportunity to go above and beyond. **Rob Wheeler ’11** and **Kevin Clough ’12** prepare delicious and wholesome midnight meals with multiple options, from steak tips, to chicken noodle soup. The kitchen and pantry are also stocked with a fruit of the week, bagels, sandwich bread, cheese, deli meat, milk, and cereal for all brothers who look to prepare breakfast or lunch for themselves.

The Commissary Department has also seen great chef’s this semester. **Gordon Wintrob ’12, Isaac Bleicher ’12, Gustaf Downs ’13, Brodrick Childs ’13** and **Arash Kani ’14** have and continue to amaze the brotherhood with delicious meals each week bringing record attendance to dinners. The Phi Sig kitchen, due to the conscious and diligent effort of the brothers, has been clean, organized, and has produced more breakfast, lunch, and dinner options than ever before.

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**Phi Sigma Kappa Presents Iron Chef**

- **Before Dinner Cocktail**
  - Strawberry Rhubarb Spritzer featuring Bacardi Rum

- **Appetizers**
  - Bacon Jalapeno Poppers
  - Jerk Chicken Dumplings and Creamy Colcannon
  - Chicken Soup with Miniature Leek-Chive Matzo Balls

- **Main Course**
  - Wine-Braised Beef Brisket with Portobello Mushrooms and Dried Cranberries
  - Mac and Two Cheeses with Caramelized Shallots
  - Corn on the Cob with Mint Pesto Butter

- **After Dinner Cocktail**
  - Bailey’s Irish Coffee

- **Dessert**
  - Chocolate Stout Layer Cake featuring Harpoon Chocolate Stout

A special thank you to our guests from the Division of Student Life and FSILG Office.
For the 110th time, Phi Sig threw itself into uniquely exciting process that is fraternity Rush. Armed once again with a beautiful house, an enthusiasm derived from strong bonds, and an organization refined over the years, we executed a very successful Rush. Each of our twenty-one new pledges bring with them the indescribable qualities necessary in a Phi Sig, and I can not wait to see them move into the house in a year’s time.

An outgoing brotherhood took to campus the week before Rush in order to meet the new blood on campus. A combination of a strong house reputation on campus and the extroverted efforts of, to name a few, John Wang ’14, Chris Puchi ’14, and Brodrick Childs ’13 led us to meet a record number of potential 15’s. Our traditional games of Mac Court dodgeball and Lobby 7 whiffle ball were successes for the fourth year running.

Orientation shenanigans were quickly forgotten as Rush proper got underway. Our schedule saw some changes, beginning on day one. The standard Greek Griller this year was renamed the Killian Kick-Off as budget cuts ensured that grilled lunch would no longer be provided to prospective fraternity men at MIT’s expense. Junior Rush Chairman Lucas Schiefelbein ’13 made sure that no freshman went hungry by marinating steak in the style of his Minnesota cattle farm upbringing. Well-fed freshmen streamed through our house en masse, soaking up each and every room during the all important first-day tours. At the front desk we tested the IFC’s new Clearinghouse Express system, using a bar code scanner to try, unsuccessfully, to keep up with the volume of freshmen walking in the front door.

We happily watched the level of attendance stay constant throughout the week; the theme of this Rush was “at capacity” as we took full vans to paint balling, beach-going, mini-golfing, and, of course, battle canoeing. Full crowds enjoyed Steak and Lobster, cooked for the third year in a row by Isaac Bleicher ’12, as well as Iron Chef, cooked once again by Siamrut Patanavanich ’10, alumnus and RA. New additions to our schedule, including the addition of jet skis to our beach trip and a poker night on the second day of Rush, definitely contributed to the level of enthusiasm that carried through the week. Even the morning of pledging was crowded, with thirteen pledges in thirteen minutes! What’s more, the initial crowd proved barely more than half of the eventual pledge class of 21, the largest in ten years.

Although our Rush was again one of the strongest among fraternities, as a collective organization the IFC pulled off a very successful rush this year. Brother Gordon Wintrob ’12, IFC President, happily oversaw a Rush free from expulsions or even substantial violations. 317 freshmen pledged a fraternity, a number slightly higher than last year despite the loss of three fraternities.

As always, Rush proved an amazing demonstration of the genuine nature of our brotherhood, and the amazing work that can be accomplished when fifty great minds and personalities join forces for a common goal. With the 15’s on our side, I can only look forward to next year’s Rush!
With graduation last spring Phi Sig lost the sports contributions of twelve elevens, a very athletic class. Joey DeRosa ’11 captained the varsity soccer team to another successful season along with eleven other brothers in the house, including Jake Shapiro ’11. Jake finished 3rd in the individual competition and 1st in rings at the National Championships (NAIGC) for gymnastics this past year. Matthieu Talpe ’11 has again begun his rigorous training in preparation for his second Ironman this coming fall, we wish him the best of luck with his training and the races building up to the Ironman. Michael Rosensweig ’11 and Rob Wheeler ’11 both culminated their college sports careers on top with championship victories as members of the ice hockey and tennis teams, respectively. Grant Kadokura ’11 had a successful wrestling season to cap off a spectacular career that included an individual national championship for his weight class. David Somach ’11 joined Ben Lewis ’13 skiing out west for most of IAP at Big Sky and Jackson Hole, and miraculously managed to come back in one piece.

The seniors brought their talents to IM sports teams this year as strong contributors to the football, soccer, ice hockey and softball teams. Xiaoxi “Josh” Wang ’11 brought the hurt as a strong member of the football team, propelling us to a near-successful season. Our soccer team will miss Alex Mannion ’11 and will look to him as we battle for a repeat indoor soccer championship this spring. The ice hockey teams will be losing a star player in Eddie Grinnell ’11 this year and will be looking for new stars to step up to fill the hole in the roster. Minh Phan ’11 lead the charge in B-League basketball as point guard as we battled against many eastern european graduate students. Minh also joined Jean Otrakji ’11 as the foundation of our C-League IM softball team. Jean, a true athlete, may have even jogged at some point over the course of the season.

We would also like to recognize the athletic achievements of our two brothers from across the pond. Dave Hawes ’14, signed to a single year contract with MIT F.C., made great contributions to the varsity team, and was a star on the IM soccer pitch. Joe Christopher ’14 demonstrated great heart and determination as a member of the varsity cross country and track & field teams.
ing huge contributions to the soccer team. **Dylan Rankin ’12** has been named team-captain of the soccer team and has the team off to a great start.

Soccer remains the most represented sport at Omicron but there are several ’15s who are making waves in the Charles as part of MIT’s crew teams. The tennis team gained new leadership as **Rob Wheeler ’11** stepped into a fitting team captain role. **Andrew Dorne ’14** is helping lead the water polo and swim teams to more success this season. **Sam Parker ’15** will be representing MIT on both the cross country and track team as well along with **Ryan Lau ’15**. With 35 brothers and associate members involved in MIT’s varsity level teams, the house has surpassed last year’s total of 31 and is now represented on 17 different sports teams.

This fall also marks the start of a new IM season. Omicron is fielding A-League Soccer and C-League Football teams with the potential of winning both leagues. We are looking to regain the A-League soccer title from rivals “African Soccer Stars” and are poised to finish very high in C-League Football after a commanding win in the first game of the season over Burton 2.

Preparations are being made for further winter IM teams including B-League Basketball and C and D-League Ice Hockey. Although 35 Omicrons play on varsity teams nearly all have strong backgrounds in competitive sports prior to coming to MIT. Our IM season will showcase these skills and Phi Sig will continue being a favorite in IM competition.

Omicron wishes all of its IM and Varsity athletes the very best during their upcoming seasons. As always, we are Damn Proud!

## Social Chairman

**Biafra Ahanonu ’12**

Fall 2011 looks to be a great semester for Phi Sig social, **Matt Skalak ’13** and I have been working to make it a return to form. We have six mixers with sororities from MIT, Harvard, and BU planned along with the introduction of two new events: PlusOne and Bromicron. PlusOne are Friday-night events in which each brother/pledge brings only one guest — this is meant to be a smaller, more intimate party. Bromicron is a Thursday-night study break for brothers and pledges.

Along with these new events we introduced a couple new party themes (Lights, Rubik’s Cube, Famous People, etc.) to add to a slew of big House parties (Fire+Ice, Cowboys+Indians, etc.) and smaller Annex parties. The parties we have thrown so far went well: for Fire+Ice we reached capacity and continuously had 50+ people outside.

With the packed calendar, we are going to have one of the best social semester’s we’ve experienced in a while!

### Logarhythms

**Gus Downs ’13**

Although many see Phi Sig as one of the “sporty” houses on campus, the fraternity is far more diverse than that. Over the past three years, there has been an influx of “Logs” into the house. Logs meaning members of the Logarhythms: MIT’s premier, all-male *a cappella* group. The Logs sing a very diverse repertoire of contemporary songs from all genres: from classic rock to current pop — even a little R&B and rap. Every year they perform several shows each weekend for crowds from all over the northeast for audiences of all types and sizes from birthday parties, to high schools, to large outdoor concerts. **Gus Downs ’13, Christopher Puchi ’14, and Nate Robert ’13** all brothers at Phi Sig who are also members of Logs. And this year, we are pleased to say that one of our pledges, **Connor Humber ’15**, has also been accepted into the Logs as a “twig,” meaning he is a baby Log and must go through the “twig process” before becoming a fully fledged Logarhythm. Now with four members of the Logs at Phi Sig, parties have been sprinkled with an added touch of serenade, the sound of vocalizing in the halls has become far more commonplace, and shower singing has been brought to a whole new level.
MEET THE PLEDGE CLASS OF 2015

Benjamin Lewis ’13, Inductor

The Phi Sigma Kappa pledge class of 2015 has already proved itself to be another great Phi Sig class. The 21 pledges of this year hail from different backgrounds but share the common characteristic of being passionate for school, sport, love and Phi Sig. Despite the excitement of just arriving at the college, the 15s are keeping their heads in the books. Master of Physics focus Antony Speranza has remarked “Trap has been buzzing with an efficiency never before seen.” Sport is no exception, with several 15s dominating the soccer field, crew boats, basketball courts and tracks. With even more extra curricular the 15s boast a member of The Logarythms, the sharpest cadet in ROTC, as well as enough computer science knowledge to make Silicon Valley salivate. When it comes to the pledge process, the 15s have hit the ground running. After thrilling the ladies of Sigma Kappa with their crooning the capture of Alpha Phi’s and Kappa Alpha Thetas’ hearts is imminent as well. Soon there songs will turn to dance, that will echo in the halls of Kresge for Sigma Kappa late night.

The brothers of Phi Sig, as well as myself, are eager to see the 15s fulfill their immense potential and develop into the fantastic brothers that they will.

These biographies were authored by the pledges themselves, #1 wrote about #2, etc.

Update: All 21 pledges have been initiated!

1 Connor Humber

The very first pledge of the Class of 2015, Connor Humber, made sure that he would triumph as being the first to pledge to Phi Sigma Kappa. The night before Connor could pledge to the fraternity, he only slept for 1.5 hours. From that period of no sleep, though, he came out with a “sick” (as he proudly describes it) and was the first to be captured by the brothers. A member of the NROTC, Connor hails from Nashua, New Hampshire. With his time at MIT he will continue to be a member of the NROTC and hopes to study the Nuclear Sciences and be a member of the Navy. Connor also has a musical side, as he is a member of the Logarithms, a leading acapella group at MIT.

2 Max Tang

Maximilian Mirco Tang is one of the chillest, coolest and overall most excellent bros to ever grace the 2015 pledge class. Maximilian is the 2nd pledge in the 2015 class of Phi Sigma Kappa. Max, as he is also referred to as, is originally from Hong Kong, China and attended the Hong Kong International School before coming to MIT. Max enjoys doing many things like activities and clubs, but enjoys sports most of all. He likes playing rugby and rowing for crew at MIT. Max also likes to sing, but claims to suck at it and hides his talent away from the rest of the world, but will soon be revealed to all of the sororities during the serenades. In coming to MIT, Max has had to relinquish many of his past loves from the early years. Some of these include his love of video games and lifting, two things which hone the mind and body. Max just doesn’t have time for many of those things anymore, but has always made time for Phi Sig, its Brothers and his Pledge Class, oh, and the ladies as well!

3 Jeff Warren ’14

Jeffrey Tyler Warren is a sophomore transfer to MIT from Hudson, NH. After two years at RPI in New York, he got into MIT and decided it would be a better school for his intended major. He is a generally athletic guy, tall and fit, fond of outdoors activities. He was a cross-country runner before he came to MIT, where he now does crew instead. He is one of the many people who try to maintain a blog, which he started to document his time as an intern at Amazon. Right now, he hopes to finish off the GIRs that MIT wouldn’t give him credit for. When he’s done, he plans to finish his course 6 major.

4 Gray Riley

Peter Graves Riley, who goes by “Gray”, is from Wellesley Massachusetts, and was born on April 8th, 1993. He attended Noble and Greenough high school in Dedham, Massachusetts. Gray was an active member of his high school cross country, crew, squash and chess teams. In his free time he enjoys hanging out with friends, playing pick up sports, listening to music, watching tv and playing card games like bridge. In high school Gray took a ceramics course, and is thinking about pursuing it recreationally. At MIT Gray continues to play squash and is hoping to play for the varsity team. He is planning on majoring in Course 2 (Mechanical Engineering) and possibly Course 16 (Aeronautical Engineering).

5 Avi Walden

Avi Ben David Walden is half Jamaican, and half Ashkenazi Jew. He is from Courtland...
Manor, New York, and went to Walter Panas High School. Avi’s is pledge number five. He is living in Baker House. He likes math and physics, but thinks he might major in course 16. Avi is on the varsity tennis team at MIT, and loves playing sports and being active. He is an avid cook and specializes in Jamaican and Italian food. Avi enjoys listening to 90’s rap music, especially the Wu Tang Clan.

6 Sam Parker

Samuel G. Parker is an energetic, outgoing freshman from Menlo Park, CA. In high school, he excelled in cross country, and also played four years of soccer and volleyball during summers. He plans on continuing his track success by being a member of MIT’s Cross Country, Indoor, and Outdoor Track teams. In addition, Sam took interest in robotics and was a member of his school’s quiz and math teams. What Sam loves most about MIT is the culture of taking pride in academic excellence without classwork being an all-consuming factor. He is ecstatic to be an associate member of Phi Sig.

7 Nick Lima

Nick Lima hails from Cheshire, CT, just outside of New Haven, and is pumped to make his move to a real college town. In high school at Phillips-Exeter Nick was active in student government, serving as both president of the student body and VP of the senior class. He also led the Exeter Democrats’ Club and founded the school’s Rocketry Team. Not yet sure what course to major in, Nick is looking at the physics department because “Einstein was the man so I [want] to be him.” When not drafting his Nobel acceptance speech, Nick can be found rowing for the varsity crew team at MIT or chilling in the house, which he is quickly learning to call home. He’s looking forward to spending four years with such smart and awesome brothers at Phi Sig!

8 Akash Badshah

Akash Abdullah Badshah was born in Boston on April 12, 1993. He promptly moved to New Jersey, then to Seattle, Washington. For his senior year of high school, Akash continued his travels, which this time took him to Phillips Exeter Academy, in New Hampshire, where he focused his coursework on mathematics and physics. While at Exeter Akash had his first paper published and won a best note award at a major computing conference (generally making those of us who knew him feel bad about our lives). Returning to his native city for college, he plans on majoring in computer science and electrical engineering and pursuing his dream of fundamentally changing the way humans and computers interact. He wants to be a Phi Sig brother in order to join a group of guys who are more than just friends and who will always have his back. Look for Akash wandering about campus in jeans a few sizes too small bobbing his head to the dubstep permanently ringing in his ears.

9 Chester Chambers

Chester Glenn Chambers III was born in Durham, North Carolina on June 20, 1993. Both of his parents graduated from Duke University so it was only fitting he was born at Duke Hospital. He moved around quite a bit, spending time in St. Louis from the age of 6 to 7 and Plano, Texas from 8 to 16. He now calls Baltimore, Maryland home, aside from MIT and Phi Sig of course. Here at MIT Chester intends to study Course 10. He also plays soccer, both for MIT and for most of his life. He is a big lil wayne fan as well. He lives in Masseh Hall. He has a younger brother who is a junior in high school and his father teaches at the Johns Hopkins Business School.

10 Pasha Muravyev

Pasha Muravyev was born in St.Petersburg, Russia on the Baltic Sea. He first came to the US in 1997 after his father won a green card lottery. He attended first grade in Brooklyn as an ESL student. He went back to Russia for second grade in St. Petersburg in public school #300. In third grade he relocated again to Plainsboro, NJ - Dutch Neck. He then moved to Swampscott, MA for the rest of elementary school. Danvers for middle school, and Exeter boarding school for 4 years. He graduated in 2011. Pasha rock climbed for 8 years and competed on a team for 4. He rowed for 4 years in high school and is a lightweight recruit on the MIT Crew team. Pasha has competed in parkour events and likes to play games such as badminton, pool, table tennis, and poker.

11 Vikas Velagapudi ’14

Vikas Velagapudi, eleventh pledge of the Omicron Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa comes to MIT after a four year stint at Phillips Exeter Academy, a private boarding school in Exeter, NH. While there, Vikas played tennis, ultimate frisbee, and was a photographer for the PEAN, the student-run yearbook. Simultaneously, he earned the highest possible academic recognition from the school - an early induction into the cum laude society, an honor granted only to the top sixteen seniors from the graduating class. Vikas was born and raised in Rock Island, Illinois. At MIT, he is majoring in course 6.3. His favorite color is blue, though it was formerly yellow; he loves to “bench” - an activity that he describes as simply “sitting on benches around campus.” And most of all, Vikas has an awesome sense of humor and is a great friend and pledge-mate (and just a great guy to be around).
12 John Thomas

Hailing from Somerville, MA, John Thomas likes to think of himself as a “full-on American boy.” He enjoys watching basketball, playing pick-up sports, rock from the 60s to 2000s and track. In fact, John is talented hurdler. His main event is the 400 hurdles with personal best of 56.7s. Currently, he is considering becoming a decathlete. Among John’s many other talents are the ability to speak Finnish and regularly make the entire room laugh. His academic interests are mechanical engineering and EECS, especially robotics. John is planning on being a course 2A with 6.

13 Delian Asparouhov

A person might never guess that Delian Asparouhov was born in Bulgaria. He moved to California at a young age and then hopped over the state border to Salt Lake City, Utah at 10. That same person might not guess that Delian can speak German so well he can almost fool Germans into thinking he’s a native. In fact, Delian is trilingual; he also speaks English and Bulgarian. Bunking his bed doesn’t give Delian enough room for activities. He needs the whole outside world for his favorite activities like skiing and biking down mountains, hiking up them and rock climbing as well as canyoneering. While he loves the outdoors, Delian intends to be a course 6 major to study artificial intelligent, augmented reality and synthetic biology. When he’s not in the classroom or scaling rock walls, you can find Delian cruising down the river as part of the light weight crew team or doing film.

14 Taylor Rajack ’14

Taylor Rajack is a sophomore currently pursuing course 14, but that number has changed 10 different times in the last year until he finally settled on economics. Taylor, known more commonly within the house as Rajack, is from a suburb of Atlanta and was involved in the rugby and soccer teams at his local high school until a broken collarbone took him out of both sports. Interestingly, Rajack is half-Caucasian, half-Trinidadian but also speaks a small amount of German. Rajack hopes to one day get involved in the financial industry because the monetary temptation is just too overwhelming.

15 Alex Dago

Alex Dago is from the windy city, Chicago, IL where he attended private school for 14 years of his life and will be continuing that trend here. As of right now he loves MIT mainly because the Econ classes and the strong social life he actively engages in. Alex is a forward on the MIT varsity soccer team and his favorite professional soccer team is the great Real Madrid even though it might create a few rivalries in the house. Alex should be a great addition to the Phi Sig house.

16 Dave Sessoms

David Sessoms was born in Marion, Virginia. He grew up there and has lived there all his life. So far he loves Boston even though he is used to being in his small town. His favorite foods are fried chicken and watermelon. He does not mind the stereotypes because in his case they are true. He enjoys track and cross-country and is on the team here at MIT. David says that he was not necessarily interested in MIT for school. He says he randomly applied and when he got in he said, “what the hell? Who can turn down MIT?” He is currently enrolled in army ROTC and enjoys it despite the early morning commitments. David lives in Baker and is thinking about majoring in course 6, but he is not certain. David is excited to start delving into classes and playing sports at MIT.

17 Ryan Lau

Some know him as Ryan Lau and others as the Asian equivalent of Brad Pitt. If you can’t tell by his tan, this cool guy was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. But this pretty boy is not afraid to get his hands dirty because his favorite pastimes include track, skiing, boarding, and long walks on the beach. Don’t let his small physique fool you, this man is a black hole for food and will finish your plate for you if you can’t. Ever need a computer program that you just can’t find, well this man can write it for you because he is one of the very few course 6 men at MIT. If you ever want to find this man or just stalk him from a nearby bush, he is currently located at Baker house.

18 John Kramer

John Kramer is your typical beast from the east. He is a whole man, excelling academically (course 2 or 16), athletically, and socially. A native of Glastonbury, Connecticut, he is an impressive athlete, able to perform across all sports. This is most accentuated by his role on MIT’s Varsity Soccer team. As one of the starting forwards for MIT, John currently leads the team in goals, an impressive feat for anyone, especially a freshman. He also plans on playing lacrosse in the spring. In his spare time, John likes to play the bass guitar, which he uses to seduce all the ladies.

19 Matt Starr

Mathew David Starr, has resided in Scarsdale, NY most of his life spending his earliest years in New York City. Matt has two siblings, an older brother, Eric (21), and a younger brother, Andrew (14). Before MIT Matt played baseball, football, but his primary sport has been crew. Currently,
Matt is a fully devoted rower for the MIT heavyweight crew. A well-rounded individual within the class of 2015, Matt also enjoys playing the piano, oboe, and guitar, and feasting on Thai food.

20 Victor Pontis
Victor Pontis was born in Los Angeles and moved to San Diego, CA when he was four years old. Although he has lived his entire life in SoCal, he is not a surfer (but he still addresses people as “dude”). Victor is an only child but has a little black terrier. In high school, he participated in many varsity sports including football, basketball, cross country and track and he plans to run track for MIT. Victor was also a member of his high school’s robotics team and hopes to continue to pursue his interest in robotics at MIT. Victor is interested in computer science and physics and plans to double major in 6-3 and 8.

21 Nick Prus
Nick was born in the cold city of Chicago, has always been cool cat. Out on the basketball court he is clutch under pressure and is never nervous to take the game-winning shot. In the future, Nick hopes to stare down bankers and watch them shrivel under his icy glare as he negotiates for a better financial deal. Nick has even been calm under embarrassment; After falling and rolling his ankle in a gratuitous warm-up drill he was able to recover and still managed to play in the game. But it really does seem that opposites attract. Nick was drawn to MIT for its hot intellectual vitality and the warmth and kindness of the student body. At Phi Sig, Nick aspires to balance both fire and ice.

CAMBRIDGE-MIT EXCHANGE

The Cambridge-MIT Exchange (CME) was established in July 2000 as a strategic alliance between MIT and the University of Cambridge in England, providing opportunities for undergraduate study abroad.

Phi Sig has been hosting one or two exchange students nearly every year since the program began. The students arrive each fall for orientation, they are assigned rooms by Senior Council, and get to participate in the antics of rush. Along with the brothers they cook, serve, do cleanups, attend house meetings, and play IM sports.

Jordan Burgess ‘13
Jordan hails from the town of Newbury, near Oxford, UK, and is rightfully proud of his home country. The two flags and portrait of the Queen now adorning Kenmore can attest to this, displayed without a hint of irony (well, almost). His passions include music and playing arcade basketball for long hours at a time. Jordan can be relied upon to supply the latest remixes of the music you know and the ones you need to know. Jordan’s penchant for low slung jeans served as a useful distinction between the two tall and brown-haired Brits, this being helpfully pointed out by Arun Saigal ’13 in the early days of the semester. When not learning how to save the world from the energy crisis, Jordan can be found wowing players and spectators alike with his natural Quidditch skills, which have come very much to the fore at MIT.

Michael Simpson ’13
Mike is from the North of England and proof of this lies in his strong love of chips and gravy (pronounced “graveh”), bingo halls and… oddly enough, basketball, which he’s apparently quite good at. His soft dulcet tones have the ability to disarm any situation and his powers of persuasion are obvious in that he’s already convinced his long-term girlfriend to spend the money on flying out for a week, whilst also amicably batting away offers from Americans loving the british accent.

Mike is studying Aeronautical Engineering and can mostly be found in Little Tijuana (2RL) with his hispanic roommates Luis, Eduardo and Efrain.