Alumni President Reports On State Of Iota-Tau Chapter

Dear Brethren:

We continue encounter setbacks on our path to full-chapter status. The most recent issue is the expulsion of the five original starting members of the colony by SAE national on grounds that relate to a series of incidents that—in my opinion—are overblown in importance. I believe that the national office is fearful of the potential for lawsuits to the extent of extreme protection. They have used the input of the province officers to make these decisions and have had zero input from me or any colony alumni. To date, no specific charges have been made known to me, although the action was taken more than three months ago.

This splits the original colony into two groups: the five who were expelled and the eight remaining members. The "rump" colony has agreed for now to continue to attempt colonization, but morale has taken a major hit. I have agreed to support the eight in their continued pursuit of a chapter and have had great support from MIT in so doing. I believe, however, that the national office considers my involvement with the chapter inconsequential and therefore of no value.

I am committed to making sure the five who were expelled get the proper treatment. It remains to be seen what that will entail.

Plans are now being made for rush, and MIT is being communicated with. How we will do this without the expelled five is the major question. The national office has volunteered to provide assistance for the rush process. How they will fit in with the campus atmosphere remains to be seen. Again, they have not gotten in touch with me.

We have a group of alumni who meet every six months to review actions taken, but we still need alumni to participate in this activity on a regular (perhaps weekly) basis. I for one have met with the colony every Sunday night in the student center and remain committed to this. We have a major hit. I have agreed to support the eight in their continued pursuit of a chapter and have had great support from MIT in so doing. I believe, however, that the national office considers my involvement with the chapter inconsequential and therefore of no value.

I am Bob Ferrara ’67, MIT’s director of FSILG alumni relations, and I’d like to discuss some new developments that may be of particular interest to your brothers:

- progress on the new IRDF Educational Operating Grant Program
- roll out of a new FSILG Alumni Toolkit web site
- Alumni Fund staff assistance to chapter fundraisers
- plans for fiber optic connectivity for all non-campus houses

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The operating grants program is now primed to go full bore. On the application side, each Alumni Corporation Treasurer has been given a grant application kit. In addition, any Alumni Corporation officer

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may contact Chris Rezek '99 of the FSILG Cooperative, Inc. for assistance in applying for the grants. Initially, grant money will be advanced from the IRDF's accumulated interest and endowment earnings. In the longer term, however, the grants must be funded by new donations to the IRDF from alumni like us. If you wish to contribute to the IRDF, please specify "IRDF" on any MIT gift form or contact the MIT Giving Office. These tax-deductible donations are often matched by employers. All IRDF gifts are fully recognized by the Alumni Fund and an IRDF donation counts toward your class and reunion totals. The Giving Office can be reached by e-mailing giving@mit.edu, by calling 1-800-MIT-1865, or for more information about the IRDF or the Educational Operating Grants program, please visit the IRDF website at http://web.mit.edu/irdf/.

A brand new FSILG toolkit is now alive and well on the MIT Alumni Association website at http://alum.mit.edu/ccg/living-groups/fsilg/. This is a collection of resources and tools that can prove useful about various aspects of FSILG operations and will be of interest especially to Alumni Corporation officers. The toolkit frequently leverages the staff and/or expertise in the Alumni Association. For example, reports are available that can aid in member identification, volunteer recruitment, or event planning. Several FSILGs are already using an Alumni Association system for on-line event registration and credit card payments for their annual reunions or Founder's Days. Staff can also help with room reservations, MIT tours, Zesiger Sports & Fitness Center passes, and coordination with other MIT events. Beyond the site also provides ready access to a number of MIT awards and recognition vehicles for a chapter's volunteers and donors.

Recently, the Alumni Fund staff developed an FSILG fundraising guide, to assist chapters trying to raise money for capital improvements or renovations. While MIT provides these monies directly to the MIT houses, the Alumni Fund staff can offer your chapter advice and recommended practices in the areas of identifying potential donors; solicitation by mail, phone, e-mail and in-person; processing gifts and responding to donors. Three MIT chapters have begun their campaigns with a trip to see an Alumni Fund officer, discuss options, and get a copy of this guide. Later this summer, its contents will be on the web as well. MIT is also making a significant invest- ment in improving data connectivity to all off-campus houses, including SAE. Currently MIT pays for a 1.544 megabit T1 connection to bring each of the Boston and Brookline houses into the MIT network. These T1 speeds are increasingly restrictive as students depend more and more on fast and reliable networks in their off-campus learning environment. A contract was just signed with Verizon to provide connectivity at speeds of up to 10 Mb/s using fiber optic technology. This will be considerably more reliable than the copper technology that currently provides houses with future capacity options. Currently, MIT's received all the necessary permits and street installation work has begun, with a target completion date of late fall 2005. In closing, let me thank you for this opportunity to share these new developments with you. It is indeed a privilege to be working with such an exceptional community. Our living and learning environments can be, and should be, the best college housing system in the nation.

A M E N D M E N T S

ROBERT I. PHEMSITER '51 writes, “I keep wondering if there are any classes-mates still around. Those with whom I corresponded headed towards the ‘Great Beyond’ some years ago. Bill Noz, you are someone to admire. Ever since you gradu- ated, it seems to me that you have been holding things together. SAE is lucky you pledged.” Keep in touch with Bob at 12751 Plaza del Rio Blvd., #3304, Peoria, AZ 85381.

RECEE H. WENGENROTH '42 has moved to 2001 Hamilton St., #1501, Philadelphia, PA 19130. He writes, “This is the 15th change of address I have had since I graduated from MIT. I think I shall stay home until the end of this year for the winter. We bought a one room crafts house with future capacity options, currently MIT's received all the necessary permits and street installation work has begun, with a target completion date of late fall 2005. In closing, let me thank you for this opportunity to share these new developments with you. It is indeed a privilege to be working with such an exceptional community. Our living and learning environments can be, and should be, the best college housing system in the nation.

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Alumni Send Their News From Near And Far

ROBERT L. PHEMSITER '31 writes, “I keep wondering if there are any classmates still around. Those with whom I corresponded headed towards the ‘Great Beyond’ some years ago. Bill Noz, you are someone to admire. Ever since you graduated, it seems to me that you have been holding things together. SAE is lucky you pledged.” Keep in touch with Bob at 12751 Plaza del Rio Blvd., #3304, Peoria, AZ 85381.

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Richard Hammer '51 lives at 912 Victoria, Sheridan, WY 82801. He con- gratulates Bill Noz for his efforts to reestablish SAE at Tech. Send e-mail to rhammer@wyoming.com.

RICHARD T. SHOEMAKER '65 writes, “I retired (after 33 years) from Dupont when they sold part of the company (Invista, Inc.) to privately-held Koch Industries. I'm still in the same office but no longer in the chemical business. I have views to the west of trains heading to the 30th Street station. The highlight of the weekend was being home and well on the MIT Alumni Association website at http://alum.mit.edu/ccg/living-groups/fsilg/. This is a collection of resources and tools that can prove useful about various aspects of FSILG operations and will be of interest especially to Alumni Corporation officers. The toolkit frequently leverages the staff and/or expertise in the Alumni Association. For example, reports are available that can aid in member identification, volunteer recruitment, or event planning. Several FSILGs are already using an Alumni Association system for on-line event registration and credit card payments for their annual reunions or Founder's Days. Staff can also help with room reservations, MIT tours, Zesiger Sports & Fitness Center passes, and coordination with other MIT events. Beyond the site also provides ready access to a number of MIT awards and recognition vehicles for a chapter’s volunteers and donors.

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H. FRITZ SCHAFFER '66 writes, “My book, Science and Christianity: Conflict or Coherence? Was published in 2003 and can be found at Barnes and Noble bookstores or at www.apol- lostrust.com. I’m feeling better than any time in the past ten years after a quintuple bypass in May 2003.” Fritz works at the Center for Computational Chemistry at the University of Georgia. Write to him at 1840 Broadlands Dr., Waxknville, GA 30167; send e-mail to hfs@uga.edu.

M. WILLIAM DIX '67 lives at 5791 S. Beech Ct., Greenwood Village, CO 80121. He writes, “RICH THURBER ’67, JOE LABRECHE ’67, and I (with our spouses) met in San Diego to enjoy the beach. The highlight of the weekend was a lobster cookout—accompanied by taken a trip to Maine with Bill by e-mail at billdix@alum.mit.edu.

HUGH H. SPRUNT ’71 writes, “Eve- neer Silver, MIT ’73) and I paid our last visit to Dartmouth in June. My son, Alexander (9), Barton Jr. (5) and two dogs, Elizabeth. They have three kids, Meg (12), Alex and Cupid. They invite SAEs to visit when in Texas. Reach Bart at 4328 Caruth Blvd., Dallas, TX 75225; send e-mail to bart.showalter@bakerbotts.com.

JASON M. JAGER ’95 has moved to 836 W. Altgeld, Chicago, IL 60614. He works for the Boston Consulting Group. Send e-mail to jager@alum.mit.edu.

TIMOTHY M. PORTER ’96 married Jennifer Phillips in July 2004. He works for Microsoft in corporate development. You can reach Tim at 620 N 34th St., #401, Seattle, WA 98103; send e-mail to tporter@microsoft.com.

DECEASED

Bob Ferrara
Director FSILG Alumni Relations
rfrerra@mit.edu.

A MESSAGE FROM MIT’S DIRECTOR

(continued from front)

DECEASED

ROBERT J. FAY '42

WENDELL E. PHILLIPS '42

JACK WILLARD '50

BRYCE H. GREEN '42

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

ROBERT J. FAY '42

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BARTON E. SHOWALTER '87 just moved into a new house with his wife, Elizabeth. They have three kids, Meg (12), Charlotte (9), Barton Jr. (5) and two dogs, Alex and Cupid. They invite SAEs to visit when in Texas. Reach Bart at 4328 Caruth Blvd., Dallas, TX 75225; send e-mail to bart.showalter@bakerbotts.com.

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