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Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at MIT • Fall 2013

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Brothers Support Relay for Life



Brothers had fun at the Relay for Life, for which they raised over \$4,000 for the American Cancer Society, the most of any Greek organization at MIT.

This spring, our brotherhood participated in the MIT-Wellesley Relay For Life, an all-night walk on the Johnson Indoor Track to raise money for the American Cancer Society. This yearly event is one of many nationwide fundraisers organized by the American Cancer Society, where individuals and teams participate by raising money and walking for an entire night to show solidarity with those affected by cancer. This was the first time our house had participated in this event, and, despite our lack of experience, in the weeks leading up to the event, we successfully held a benefit party, organized a bake sale, and even made a funny YouTube video in order to raise money.

The video we made was a humorous “training video” for the relay, where we ran shirtless in the snow past various landmarks on campus and did comical workouts in the Z Center and at the house. Despite the cold, everyone who participated had a great time and had an even better time watching the video after it had been uploaded to YouTube. More important than the fun we had making the video was the incredible response we received after releasing it. Within a week of uploading it to YouTube, we raised over \$1,000, exceeding the goal we had set for ourselves for our entire Relay For Life campaign. To view the video, search for “Theta Chi Relay for Life” on YouTube.

With the success of the video, we decided to keep our momentum going and hosted a huge party at the house the weekend before Relay For Life, where we collected voluntary donations at the door. Everyone had a great time while also supporting a great cause.

In the last three days before Relay For Life, we held a bake sale in the Infinite Corridor. Some of the brothers stayed up as late as 4:00 a.m. on weeknights, baking cookies and brownies, while other brothers tapped into their inner Billy Mays to sell the brownies in the Infinite Corridor.

At the Relay For Life event itself, teams were asked to have at least one member walking around the track at all times, so groups of us walked together and traded spots with each other so that we could all occasionally rest and take advantage of the food, music, and fun activities going on in the center of the track. The schedule for the night included times designed for everyone to have fun and also times designed for more serious reflection. The combination of events led to an enjoyable and rewarding experience overall.

One thing that made our Relay For Life campaign special was our ability to have a great time while remaining dedicated



to a serious and important cause, and the fact that we chose creative and fun ways to bring awareness to the event slowly drew more brothers in. Virtually the entire brotherhood eventually became involved in the campaign in one way or another, and as a result,

after nearly a month of fundraising, we were able to raise over \$4,000, more than any other Greek organization on campus. This was the first large-scale community service event in recent years, and it was incredible to see the outpouring of support from family, friends, and alumni.

Carlos Greaves '13
Community Service Chair

Alumni Weekend Continues 110th Exuberance

A Brotherhood-Building VP Retreat

For this year's VP Retreat, the actives took a day trip to the Blue Hills Reservation right outside of Boston. We set camp near the beautiful Houghton's Pond on one of the first nice sunny days of May this year. Our mission for the day was simple: We hoped to improve how we communicated with one another and to better understand what our collective goals as a house were.

We began the retreat with an icebreaker game, in which two teams made human knots, and whichever was able to untangle itself first would win. We first had the two teams play without being allowed to talk, and then later being allowed to. Both teams quickly noticed the ease of the second round compared to the first, and the game served as an example of how communication can make us more efficient.

After this game, everyone gathered in the picnic-table area, and we began a conversation about how to communicate better as a house. The topics of how we talk during house meetings and how we talk to one another came up. Every brother was engaged and contributed meaningfully to the conversation. We concluded that, first, we should make even more of an effort to acknowledge the contributions of individual brothers as a house and as fellow brothers and that, second, we should allow for longer discussion of issues brought up at house meetings in order to provide more time for thought and meaningful dialogue.

The conversation was followed by an exercise that put our first conclusion to practice. Every brother had a sheet of paper taped to his back, and other brothers had the opportunity to anonymously write something that they admired or appreciated about the brother. The results were fantastic; after taking off the sheet, each brother found a wealth of positive feedback and learned that everyone in the house was

very grateful about his contributions to our chapter. This is something that, due to various circumstances, might not be communicated throughout the course of the year, so it made brothers very happy to get these comments.

Lunch followed the appreciation exercise. Brother and RA Steven Ojeda '12, our president, Preston Thompson '14, and I made food while everyone else was placed in pairs, given a set of questions concerning themselves and the house, and instructed to take a walk around the lake to discuss these questions. After eating and a quick game, we split everyone into four large teams and asked them to come up with a set of values and goals that define our chapter and to put these goals in the form of a preamble. Different groups discussed different things, such as the importance of being involved in the community or the value of having a vibrant social program to make connections and provide a contrast to MIT's tough academics. In the end, the thing that all four preambles shared in common was a belief that it is the duty of members of our chapter to support one another in every way possible and to help each other succeed. The most valuable thing for everyone was not externally oriented but, rather, to create a better union within our own ranks.

The retreat concluded on this positive note, and brothers were allowed to hike around the lake and the woods or head back home. We all ended up coming back to Boston early so we could make it to APhi's King of Hearts completion and cheer for our brother Deniz Aksel '16 as he played a sick blues solo on the electric guitar, representing our fraternity.

Daniel Bulhosa Solorzano '15
Vice President

After the 110th anniversary, alumni and actives alike were excited for Alumni Weekend, when we would have the chance to extend the relationships formed in the fall at the 110th celebration. Thanks to planning by Alumni Chair Vlad Kontsevoi '14 and various alums, we kept the momentum going April 26–28 with a weekend full of activities and brotherhood.

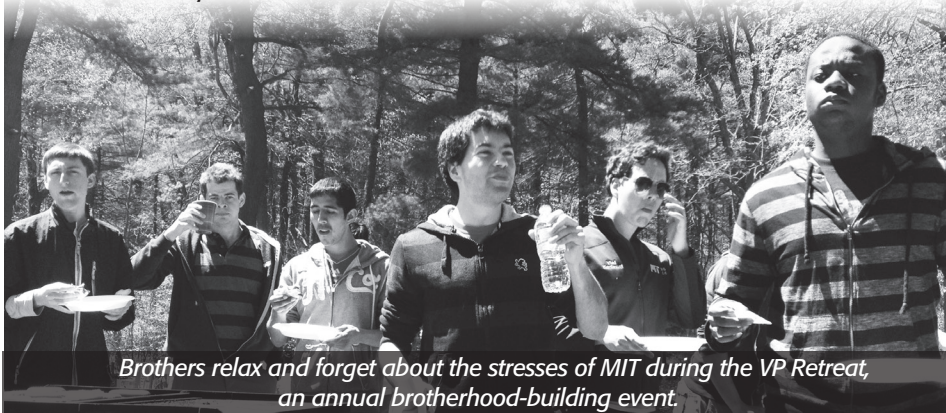
Events kicked off on Friday night, although the closing of Crossroads moved dinner and refreshments from its typical location to Cornwall's in Kenmore Square. Afterward, brothers returned to the house for a hearty game of dealer's choice poker, filled with popular house games like 5-2 Drop and Beta Chapter's in-house creation, Chewy's Challenge.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the annual alumni-active softball grudge match on Saturday morning, which featured two talented offense-oriented teams. After a few innings, the alumni had put some distance between themselves and the actives, but a soccer match claimed the field and put a temporary halt to the game. After many attempts to find a new field were foiled by other soccer matches, we finally found a field at the Amory Park in Brookline to keep America's favorite pastime alive. For whatever reason, whether from the loss of players in the search for a new field or the addition of a few players at the new field, the actives were much more competitive at the new field. The wide margin slowly began to narrow, but in the end, it was too much ground to cover, and the alumni won 21-13.

On Saturday night, the alumni corporation meeting was followed by a wonderful steak dinner at the house, catered by the current house cook, Chef John. After dinner, the Alumnus of the Year Award was presented to John Helferich '79 for his invaluable efforts in the renovation campaign, his major role in planning the 110th anniversary, and his appointment as chair of the outlook committee. Saturday wrapped up with a celebration of Theta Chi, involving stories, singing, and all around good times.

We finished the weekend with brunch at Mass Ave Tavern on Sunday morning, with higher attendance than previous years due to its proximity to the house. We'd like to thank all the alumni who

(continued on next page)



Brothers relax and forget about the stresses of MIT during the VP Retreat, an annual brotherhood-building event.

Summer Notes from Actives and New Grads

Daniel Bulhosa '15: I am spending my summer continuing the research I did last year. My area of research is inflationary cosmology, which is the study of the era of the universe that is essentially the "big bang" of our observable universe. My group is studying the processes that occurred during this era and how they might lead to the formation of structure in the universe: specifically, the formation of galaxies.

Jose Burgos '15: This summer, I am interning at Faurecia Emissions Control Technologies, located in Columbus, Indiana. I am working in the materials engineering and warranty department, where I work in the lab, tearing apart parts of automobile exhaust systems, such as catalytic converters and exhaust manifolds, from the company's clients. Much of the business is done with manufacturers from the "Big 3" (Ford, GM, Chrysler). We inspect parts that come our way for defects and offer suggestions as to how to fix the processing of these parts. Much of the work deals with weld analysis, fatigue and fracture, and corrosion.

Geoff Dawson '13: I graduated this past spring with an S.B. in mechanical engineering and have relocated to San Francisco to resume work for Apple. I'll be in charge of manufacturing operations for the next-gen iPhone's glass components, and I will split my time between the headquarters in Cupertino, the facilities in China, and the vendors in Asia and Europe. I'm living with my roommate from Theta Chi, Krishna, as well as with my twin brother and another good friend from MIT, in a rented house located in downtown San Francisco. In my spare time, you can find me working on my truck or hanging out in Dolores Park. The new address is 4517 18th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; keep in touch!

Michael Desanker '13: This summer, I am continuing the work I have been doing through the previous semester in the Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies. The work is on graphene-based sensors that detect vapors produced by explosive materials and chemical agents. I graduated this spring, majoring in chemistry, and will attend Northwestern University in the fall to pursue a Ph.D. in Inorganic or materials chemistry.

Toks Fifo '14: I'm spending my summer in the great city of Erie, Pennsylvania, where I'm interning with GE Transportation. Specifically, I'm working on a multi-million-dollar product that automatically controls the throttle for locomotives, similar to the cruise control in your car. Trip Optimizer is very popular because of the massive amount of fuel it saves customers. Working in one of the cornerstone businesses of this community, while being walking distance from Lake Erie, has been a tremendous summer experience!

John Graham '16: So far this summer, I have been working as an intern at Aerovironment in Simi Valley. I have been assisting in the production of the PUMA drones for an MIT LL project. On the weekends, I am taking flying lessons and hope to obtain my private pilot's license before the summer is up. I have 10.1 solo hours and a total of 35.4 hours.

Vlad Kontsevoi '14: I am spending my summer interning at D. E. Shaw, a quantitative hedge fund in New York City. I have enjoyed spending my weekends exploring the city and the surrounding area.

Robert Learsch '15: I'm at Aberdeen Proving Ground, an army research base in Maryland. We're developing techniques for first visualizing and then for comprehending

and describing the mechanisms by which a non-penetrating projectile excites a hybridized set of materials that is (to a first-order approximation) representative of a helmet/head "system." So far, we've had good results on soldier feedback from VLOS (<http://www.creativeengineering.com/government-defense/arl-helmet-vlos/>), and we're starting to collect data on integrating shear-thickening tethers.

Franco Montalvo '13: I am traveling through Europe and Israel with Will, Adrian, and Rachael. After that, I am bringing my grandma to see Ireland and to check it off her bucket list. Finally, I hope to fly to Brazil in August for a fall internship.

Andrew Moran '14: This summer, I am continuing my role as a technical assistant research intern at MIT Lincoln Laboratory. As part of the Computing and Analytics Group, I am working on the implementation and optimization of network situational awareness via 3D gaming technology. My combined interests in cybersecurity and game development are making this experience very entertaining, and I hope to pursue it in the future.

Rodrigo Muñoz '13: After graduation, I spent a week in Florida with my parents and brother visiting some family. After that, I went on a two-week road trip across the U.S., driving 5,000+ miles and visiting approximately 20 states. I'm now in Boston, hanging out with my homies, and I will be joining Facebook as a software engineer in early August.

Leo Tampkins '13: I am an intern at SpaceX. I am working with the Avionics Systems Integration group on rocket harnessing and launch support systems.

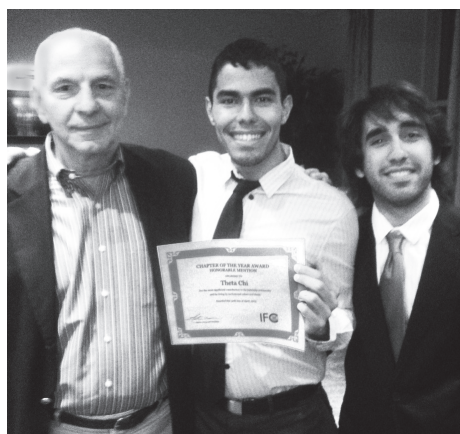
Alumni Weekend

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showed up to celebrate the traditions and memories of Theta Chi, and we hope that you can make time to join us for next year's Alumni Weekend!

Preston Thompson '14
President

At right: Daniel Bulhosa '15 and Hal Anil accepted an Honorable Mention Award for Chapter of the Year for the Beta Chapter at the IFC Faculty Dinner this spring.



Beta Chapter of Theta Chi

gratefully acknowledges the generous donors to our "Securing the Future of 528 Beacon" Campaign

June 7, 2013

James Poitras '63, Fundraising Committee Chair

Ilkka Suvanto '68, Building Committee Chair

G. Tattersfield '22	A. Richman '57	D. Dewan '65	F. Ruiz '76	A. Chenvainu '90	J. Stritar '07
J. Gray '40	W. Bayer '58	F. Gander '65	K. Kreischer '77	D. Auerbach '91	J. Wan '07
C. Mueller '41	A. Bergles '58	J. Proctor '65	F. Sauk '77	J. Piscitello '91	D. Baumgartner '08
A. Heckel '44	D. Bold '58	G. Rose '65	P. Bayless '78	D. Zimmer '91	G. Hofmeister '08
C. Boland '45	R. Hazan '58	P. Smith '65	W. Pritchard '78	S. Cook '92	J. Turner '08
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R. Fried '46	R. Parente '58	T. Franzel '66	J. Helferich '79	B. Weintraub '92	R. Andrews '10
W. Goodnow '46	F. San Miguel '58	O. Mertz '66	J. Thompson '79	G. Agami '93	K. Wang '10
W. Rapoport '46	E. Smiddy '58	B. Ferrara '67	G. Wilson '79	D. Cho '93	J. Albritton '11
J. Phillips '47	J. Deryck '59	R. Ferrara '67	C. Albright '80	E. Hankwitz '93	P. Mckee '11
A. West '47	E. Drake '59	T. Hinrichs '67	D. Blakeman '80	D. Herman '93	M. Scott '11
B. Dann '48	W. Johnson '59	H. Jones '67	M. Lehrer '80	C. Hunermund '93	J. Busche '12
R. Murray '48	A. Nintzel '59	D. Kress '67	G. Smith '80	J. Titus '93	A. Esho '12
B. Cowley '49	J. Weisbuch '59	P. Bradish '68	J. Flatt '81	N. Bogan '94	S. Ojeda '12
R. Hinrichs '49	T. Ansbacher '60	K. Gardner '68	R. Hance '81	B. Joarder '94	V. Ramasesh '12
K. Prytherch '49	N. Kneissler '60	B. Park '68	D. Summa '81	D. Frohman '95	K. Schumacher '12
R. Price '50	R. Laub '60	T. Penn '68	A. Hollenbeck '82	J. Deich '96	B. Tabidi '12
R. Waladt '50	R. McClatchey '60	J. Preston '68	J. Murray '82	J. Kreisberg '99	A. Clarke '13
T. Biggs '51	J. Patalive '60	I. Suvanto '68	D. Nash '82	J. Timpe '99	G. Dawson '13
R. Davis '51	D. Richardson '60	J. Byrnes '69	S. Rappaport '82	W. Johnston '00	M. Desanker '13
W. Freeman '51	D. Webber '60	J. Gallagher '69	A. Ringen '82	P. Juang '00	K. Esteva '13
W. Shenkle '51	W. Allen '61	B. Glabe '69	K. Ashelin '83	M. Tao '00	W. Gaviria '13
C. Spaulding '51	O. Robinson '61	T. Moebus '69	C. Buscemi '83	S. Lim '01	C. Greaves '13
R. Aquadro '52	L. Schindler '61	D. Anderson '70	R. Frank '83	D. Berkowitz '02	J. Lin '13
R. Danforth '52	R. Brady '62	H. Ebeling '70	D. Keselica '83	M. Lahaie '02	F. Montalvo '13
D. Mayo '52	J. Lambert '62	J. Stempeck '70	E. Weaver '83	D. Lobosco '02	P. Muir '13
E. Ort '52	C. Riley '62	W. Stroud '70	O. Clements '84	G. Mahowald '02	R. Munoz '13
D. Plummer '52	J. Rollwagen '62	N. Decristofaro '71	P. Rutherford '84	M. Tompkins '02	L. Tampkins '13
L. Glaeser '53	W. Taylor '62	D. Geiger '71	C. Custer '85	A. Gregg '04	T. Fifo '14
S. Hess '53	F. Ansuini '63	R. Haas '71	S. Drane '85	J. Rotchford '04	J. Katz '14
J. Hsia '53	M. Greata '63	M. Safonov '71	J. Keith '85	R. Runnion '04	V. Kontsevoi '14
S. Amstutz '55	W. Jessiman '63	M. Callaham '72	C. Lane '85	O. Bhalala '05	A. Moran '14
A. Friot '55	R. Kurtz '63	J. Mackro '72	A. Weiss '85	M. Francis '06	A. Orozco '14
E. Boggs '56	J. Poitras '63	J. Runkle '72	B. Haney '86	P. Hart '06	P. Thompson '14
J. Hamblett '56	L. Thompson '63	J. Sawyer '72	P. Laferriere '86	A. Kaczmarek '06	H. Anil '15
R. Jacobs '56	M. Giles '64	C. Billing '73	B. Strauss '86	T. Kothari '06	D. Bulhosa '15
G. Bell '57	C. Mock '64	C. Shin '73	T. Mchenry '87	P. Maher '06	J. Burgos '15
W. Brady '57	R. Nixon '64	R. McLaughry '75	D. Money '87	K. Schrock '06	A. Lira '15
A. Burgess '57	A. Blanchard '65	N. Spishak '75	M. Traudt '87	B. Glass '07	A. Martinez '15
N. Disco '57	T. Chinn '65	A. Williams '75	S. Margossian '88	E. Karlick '07	A. Vogel '15
		M. Keough '76	S. Schondorf '88		



Alumni & Senior Reception

For the third year, the house was open for an alumni and graduating senior reception after Commencement. In spite of a downpour, we had about 25 attendees venturing across the river. The entire class of 1963 was in attendance and made a full tour of the House. In addition, we had several families of graduating seniors visit with us. It was wonderful to see the brotherhood of Theta Chi stretching across the decades.

John Helferich '79



528 Renovation Update

The renovation work is finished, the house is in great shape, and we should be proud of the results. If you haven't seen it, you should stop in whenever you're in Boston.

As the treasurer, I want to update you on the financial situation. Although the original estimate in September 2008 was \$900,000, we were able to complete several additional projects (roof deck, kitchen, fifth-floor bath, etc.). Even with these additions, the total cost was just under \$900,000 (\$884,200).

The renovation was paid for in the following way:

Alumni contributions to date. . . .	\$600,400
Vanguard reserves withdrawn.	60,000
IRDF mortgage loan from MIT.	250,000
Savings interest.	2,300
Total	\$912,700
Renovation account balance.	28,500
Total Paid	\$884,200

The current balance of the mortgage is \$234,000. It is a 30-year 3.62% note, which can be paid off without penalty. We pay the amount of \$3,424 each quarter. What this means is that paying the mortgage off in 30 years will cost a large amount of interest. There are 107 of the original 120 payments left, amounting to \$366,365. With the current balance of \$234,041, there would be interest payments of \$132,324. Obviously, the quicker we can pay off the note, the more the long-term savings.

Although the capital campaign is coming to an end, we still need to raise funds to pay off the mortgage. An effort to pay it off sooner is appropriate, because it represents our ability to have completed the renovation on time.

As you know, using SPGH to make donations tax-deductible, helped us raise the needed funds. We are still able to donate through SPGH. SPGH has, however, changed its fee structure. From a straight percentage of the donated funds, it now charges a \$20 fee per transaction. That means that a \$100 donation through SPGH nets only \$80. Previously, the fee was 3% under \$500 and 2% above \$500. We will continue with SPGH for tax-deduction purposes in order to pay off the mortgage. If this deduction is useful to you, please continue to make checks out to SPGH with "Beta Chapter of Theta Chi" as the memo.

If the deduction is not useful, a direct contribution to Beta Chapter is an alter-

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Memories of Crossroads Irish Pub and Zebra Lounge

On April 15, 2013, Crossroads Irish Pub sadly announced its final “last call” and shut its doors after over 30 years serving the residents of the Back Bay community. Even before Crossroads existed, the same location was the spot of the Zebra Lounge, where plenty of Theta Chis went to drink and socialize. In a city where Irish pubs outnumber Starbucks (or so it seems), Crossroads was seemingly ordinary to outsiders. The beer selection was decent, but not extensive. Nothing on the menu was unique to the place, and the décor left much to be desired. However, for those of us who knew Crossroads, we would not have had it any other way. From being a cheap place to eat on the weekends to a convenient spot to meet friends both new and old, Crossroads is forever fixed in our memories, and it will certainly be missed.

Recently, I solicited memories of Crossroads Irish Pub and the Zebra Lounge via email, because I thought printing personal anecdotes would be the most fitting tribute to a place so beloved by so many. The response I received from alumni was amazing. My original plan of printing all the memories received in one article was, therefore, no longer possible, unless we greatly expanded the length of the *Beta Button*. Consequently, we will be publishing memories in chronological order, starting with the 1960s and continuing onward until all memories are published. I have edited some of the stories for length and clarity, but the essence of the stories remains. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I did. (It’s also interesting to see how the location evolved over the decades.)

Ryan Andrews ’10

“The Crossroads rings no bells with me, nor does the Zebra Lounge. My recollections of drinking was that it all occurred at 528 Beacon Street”

—Jack Winninghoff ’48

“The Zebra Lounge must have happened after 1954.

“I lived at 528 from September 1949 until June 1954, and there was no bar (Zebra Lounge or anything else) at 495 Beacon Street during that time (though I feel less absolutely certain about ’53 and ’54 because I was in Course VI-A and was spending alternate semesters, summers included, at other locations). Sid Hess, Joe Spracher, and I, all originally class of ’53, lived for a semester (a year?), when the dormitory

was overflowing, in a room at 505 Beacon, which must be next door, so we had a pretty good look at the neighborhood.

“But memories fade, and I’d probably better not swear to anything!”

—Richard G. Mills ’53
(because of VI-A, degrees received in ’54)

“As I remember it, Miller’s drugstore was at the corner of Mass Ave and Beacon Street. Next door, on Mass Ave, was an eating place, which I can only remember being called ‘the Spoon.’ It was long and narrow, with booths on both sides and the grill in back. It was well-lighted, casual, and served mostly beer and burgers.

“The Zebra occupied the corresponding place next to Miller’s drugstore on Beacon

“... hours at the books were broken up by someone’s call of “STUDY BREAK!!!,” which meant a trip to the Crossroads for a beer, a gripe session, and a song with the jukebox.”

Street. The Spoon and the Zebra connected in back and, I think, shared some kitchen. My recollection is that the Zebra opened during the time that I was at MIT. It was dark, more of a nightclub atmosphere and, as I recall, served wine and mixed drinks. During my time at Theta Chi, if we went out for a beer, we went to the Spoon, not the Zebra. I don’t recall there ever being any entertainment at the Zebra. If we wanted more of a club atmosphere, the brothers who could afford it went to the Elliott Lounge at the corner of Commonwealth and Massachusetts.”

—Bill Lehmann ’55

“Perhaps, when the Zebra Lounge acquired a classy name, the quality of the food also improved, but possibly not. The Zebra Lounge, when I was there, was not a place one ate at except when there was no other choice. I seem to recall that there were two parts to the place: the restaurant, such as it was, had an entrance on Mass Ave, and a back room, the lounge part, that had an entrance on Beacon Street. I can’t remember having ever had even a beer at the lounge; actually paying for a beer that I’d have to drink in the dark was just not part of my lifestyle.

“As I said, we’d only eat there when we had to. Work Week at 528 was one of those times.

Angie and Frank would not have started their kitchen duties, so we’d have to fend for ourselves. The conversations at the Zebra Lounge seemed always to include a few minutes of discussion about the quality of the food.

“One fall evening—this would have been 1956 or 1957—four of us were stuffed into a naugahyde booth, discussing whether anyone had died from having eaten there and, if they did, whether anyone would notice. The idea was intriguing, and we decided that someone might just have to die so we could find out. I cannot remember whether I drew the short straw or just volunteered (Work Week tended to encourage a certain carefree attitude), but I became the dead one. I just groaned loudly and collapsed onto the floor. (The general attitude

of tech students at the time did not include many worries about sanitation; look where we were eating.) My buddies immediately grabbed my arms and legs and hauled me out. As I recall, none of the other denizens were particularly surprised, and I at least did not have to eat dessert.

“I wonder if anyone remembers that little antic, and if I’ve gotten any part of it right. This whole incident has lain hidden somewhere in my brain for a long time now, and it was not until the name of the place appeared before my eyes that this much has come back.”

—Dan Andersen ’58

“I remember that there was Gus, the bartender, and Jane, the waitress, from my first visit in 1957. Sometimes, Jane would come by and replace our drinks with sodas, with an ABC inspector arriving shortly thereafter to verify the age of anyone seen drinking alcohol. After the inspector was gone, Jane would put our beers back. They used to give us a free ‘finally legal’ drink on our birthday. During my undergraduate stay at the house, ‘happy hours’ were still legal, so you would either get the second drink free or the third drink for a penny (I can’t remember which it was, probably because I had too many of those free/\$0.01 drinks!). John Rollwagen and I used to tape the piano player for our show, broadcast from ‘the magnificent Zebra Lounge’ on WTBS. Pat, my wife, remembers it only as Crossroads, so the name must have changed from Zebra Lounge to Crossroads around 1961 or 1962. We never ate there, but we did use the back entrance to ‘the Spoon’ when we wanted food.”

—Jim Poitras ’61

"It's hard to believe the Crossroads has shut down. It was certainly an integral part of our life at the house! Many nights, the endless hours at the books were broken up by someone's call of "STUDY BREAK!!!" which meant a trip to the Crossroads for a beer, a gripe session, and a song with the jukebox. 'The Patriot Game' was an obvious choice, sung in our best Irish voice, which really sounded odd in my North Carolina accent; during our years, 'Monday, Monday' was also a favorite.

"I was brave/foolish enough to take my mom and dad there when they visited. As we left after a beer, there were police in the street, who told us that a man had been shot on the roof. I told the folks it was a typical day."

—Ben Park '67

"The Red Sox won the pennant in '67. On that Sunday afternoon, the Red Sox beat the Twins at Fenway Park, with Carl Yastrzemski getting a big hit and making a crucial throw for an out in the eighth. But we had to wait for the outcome of a game on the West Coast. The Angels were tied with the Red Sox at the start of the day. We were all in the Crossroads listening to the game over the radio. The place was packed. The Angels lost late in a close game, and the bar sent a free round to everybody in the place. Pandemonium! After our free round, many of us joined in the riot in Kenmore Square.

"In about 1970 or 1971, the Crossroads burned: some say cooking fire, some say 'Italian lightning.' They took this opportunity to make a major renovation, including adding a second floor. Before 1970, it was just one floor with this futuristic-looking lighted design in the ceiling. Pretty convenient that the insurance money helped to make an expansion they wanted to do anyway. They completed the renovation in the summer of 1972 (my recollection of the timing). They had a grand reopening party and made sure that the old guard from Theta Chi was invited. We took up four tables on the second floor in the back. At the time, I was dating an attractive woman who was inclined to make a show. She took forever to get ready for this, well into the time that it would start. She finished dressing, wearing this gorgeous shorts outfit that floored me. Since we were late, she was able to make a grand entrance, and all the guys noticed. Most of them then said to me, 'So what is a gorgeous chick like that doing with a nerd

like you?' This only stirred up the crowd for a few minutes, and everyone went back to their beers and drinking games. We parted ways a few months later."

—David Kress '67

"One memory I have was of John Stempeck finding a \$20 bill on the sidewalk around the corner. As he bent over to pick it up, he spotted another, then another, etc. I think he found \$100 total, which was REAL money back then!"

—Tim Gilmore '70

"I was an active Theta Chi, living at 528 Beacon (mostly) from 1966 to 1970, and a regular customer at the Crossroads until about 1973. The legal drinking age in Massachusetts was 18 then. Freshmen were able to pledge a fraternity before the start of classes, and one of the first rites of passage was a trip to the 'Roads, as we called it. Actually, many trips.

"The establishment was primarily an Italian restaurant and bar in those days. It was

"... Crossroads was a great venue for meeting other residents of the area, notably, students from Chandler School for Women, students from BU, and members of other nearby MIT fraternities."

owned by Dominic DeCandio (aka 'Pat') and his sister (I think her name was Angela). They were just the warmest, friendliest people you could ever find: born in Italy and raised in Boston, straight out of central casting. They greeted all of us by our first names and made us feel like part of their family.

"Angela (I might be wrong about her name) was a combination head waitress and surrogate mother in many ways. She had plenty of free advice for any of us who might be having romantic troubles (e.g., 'What happened to that girl I used to see you with?'). Dom was not in evidence at the 'Roads as often (there were rumors he was a made man, but I never believed them), but when he was there, he was a great host. The other staff members were good people as well, very personable and welcoming, but unfortunately I don't remember any of their names.

"The Theta Chi meal plan in those days did not include dinner on Fridays and Sunday evenings, so a lot of us ate at or got takeout from the Crossroads. The overwhelming favorite fare for Oxen was pizza, and the 'Roads had some of the best pizza

in Boston. When we dined at the restaurant, we usually drank bottled beer, or sometimes draft beer, and often plenty of it. Many a Saturday hangover was the result of excessive consumption the previous night at the 'Roads. Although many customers overindulged from time to time, I do not recall bad behavior by anyone at the restaurant.

"In addition to serving as a frequent haunt for Theta Chis, the Crossroads was a great venue for meeting other residents of the area, notably, students from Chandler School for Women, students from BU, and members of other nearby MIT fraternities. We also frequented the lunch counter at Miller's Drug Store nearby, which was later converted to a sub shop known as the Hawk Shops (*sic*) and was owned by Red Sox star Ken Harrelson. Sadly, these neighborhood establishments closed their doors in the early 1970s, but the Crossroads continued to prosper for a time.

"Not long afterward Dom DeCandio decided to open a nightclub in east Cambridge (I can't recall the name, and I never visited it). It was an ambitious venture, and, ultimately, it did not succeed. If I recall correctly, Dom lost ownership of the Crossroads as a result.

"I moved away from Boston in 1973, and, by the time I returned two years later, the restaurant's ownership and theme had changed. I lost contact with the DeCandio family and seldom, if ever, patronized the establishment again. It is nice to know that the 'Roads continued in other incarnations as a part of Theta Chi culture until the present, and it saddens me a little to know that the tradition is finally ending."

—Sam Stroud '70



our alumni send their news

John D. Winninghoff '48 writes: "Started MIT September '42; pledge class '42; **Bill Boschen '44** our master. Returned to MIT summer of '46 with other WWII 'Zoomies' (pilots & navigators). Stayed at MIT seven straight semesters. Sales engineer for Alcoa two years. Recalled for Korean Conflict. Finished active duty in '52. Spent 22 years in defense business, optically and electro-optically oriented. Started aluminum boat business in '74. Still at it (much downsized). Expect to sell shortly and manage for a couple years. Live and work in remodeled barn close to launching ramp on Rowley River. Can still hit a tennis ball despite a broken neck, provided no more than a step is necessary." Write to John at 55 Warehouse Lane, Rowley, MA 01969; jdwinninghoff.com.

Alan Friot '55 has cut back his hours as office manager at Friot's Water Treatment Corp. Reconnect with Alan at 52 Windward Pointe Dr., Wells, ME 04090; afriot@maine.rr.com.

Tom Franzel '66 recounts the time that he met Norbert Wiener, a famous American mathematician and one of the most legendary professors at MIT. "I was class of 66 and only met/saw Norbert Wiener

528 Renovation Update

(continued from page five)

native. Both SPGH and direct donations should be sent to:

Beta Chapter of Theta Chi
P.O. Box 425424
Cambridge, MA 02142

Even though the main campaign is over, we need to think of the mortgage as part of the renovation. In other words, contributions are still needed. Support to date has been very good. We ask for continued donations to pay off the last debt on the renovation.

If you have any questions about the renovation or the finances, just contact any of the alumni corporation officers:

Ross Runnion '04: mochaman@mit.edu
John Helfferich '74: helfejoh@alum.mit.edu
Bob Ferrara '67: rferrara@mit.edu
Ryan Andrews '10: randrews@alum.mit.edu
Chet Riley '62: criley@alum.mit.edu

If I can answer any other questions, please email or call me at (603) 926-5453. We look forward to your continued support of this project.

Chet Riley '62

once. A few months before he died, in the dead of winter 1963–1964, I was walking down Mass. Ave. in front of the Coop, and a portly gentleman in front of me slipped and fell on his ass. It was Wiener himself. He peered at me with a look of astonishment as I helped him to his feet. He said "Thank you," and I said "You're welcome." I offered to help steady him to where ever he was going, but he said he was OK. In retrospect, this was one of the highlights of my time at MIT." Drop Tom a note at 2210 Cobbler Ct. NW, Salem, OR 97304.

Raymond Ferrara '67 works as chief technology officer at Green Status Pro in Lexington, Massachusetts. Keep in touch with Raymond at P.O. Box 85, Concord, MA 01742; ray.ferrara@alum.mit.edu.

John L. Preston Jr. '68 has retired from HydrogenSource, a company focused on making fuel cell technology. Get in touch with John at 5 Lakewood Lane, Columbia, CT 06237; john.l.preston@gmail.com.

deceased

Lucien R. Jones '44
January 10, 2013

James L. Phillips '47
January 2, 2013

Thomas J. Dunn '48
March 9, 2013

George Stewart '48
February 3, 2013

Brother Jim Phillips '47 Flies His Last Mission

This past January, **Jim Phillips '47** passed on at 89 years of age. Jim led a long and full life and was a cornerstone of Beta Chapter for decades. He personified the best virtues of Theta Chi and was a sterling example of "the greatest generation," the American youth who came of age during World War II.

After growing up in Erie, Pennsylvania, Jim headed to MIT in the fall of 1941. While a student, he enlisted in the Army Air Corp in 1943 and went on to fly the famed B-17 "Flying Fortresses" on many missions over Germany and occupied Europe. Just before D-Day, his plane was hit, and Jim was wounded while bailing out. He was captured and spent nine months as a prisoner of war in Germany until liberated by soldiers from Patton's 3rd Army.

When Jim came back to the US, he married his Simmons College sweetheart, Jane Reynolds, in 1945. It was a wonderful union; they were married for 67 years and had three sons.

Back at MIT, he also found time to be chair of the InterFraternity Council, then, as now, an important campus position. The MIT folks must really have liked him, because right after graduation, Jim was hired on as assistant to the new dean of students, Everett Baker (after whom Baker House is named). Soon after, he began a long, productive career in investment management.

Since 1949, Jane and Jim had lived in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachu-

setts. It was great place to raise a family. He was active in local community service and served as President of the Board of North Shore Children's Hospital. Many generations of Theta Chis will remember Jim as chair of the Theta Chi Trust, which was originally chartered back in 1917 and acquired 528 Beacon in 1922. In 1988, the trust, consisting of Jim, **Carey Rappaport '80**, and **Dave Campanella '79**, transferred the property to a newly formed corporation, the Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, Inc. This entity exists today, though is more commonly known as Ox-BetaCorp or simply the alumni corporation.

Like his predecessor, OxBetaCorp chair **Ross Runnion '04** always welcomes brothers who wish to help with the governance of the chapter, either on the corporation or on the advisory board. If you are interested, simply contact Ross at runnion@alum.mit.edu. We were hoping Jim and Jane could join us for the 110th anniversary dinner, which was held at the beautiful home of Cheryl and **Harold Jones '67**, just a mile or so down the road from the Phillipses in Manchester-by-the-Sea. Up until a few days before, they were planning on attending, but then Jim called to say he had come down with an illness. It was to be his last. Jim would have been the senior Theta Chi at this gathering, so many younger Theta Chis thus missed a chance to meet a truly outstanding brother and American citizen. He will be missed, and we will remember him.