



beta button

Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at MIT • Winter 2014

Upcoming Events

IRDF 50th Celebration: April 26

Our chapter is one of several MIT fraternities and sororities sponsoring a Jubilee celebration for the Independence Residence Development Fund's (IRDF) 50th anniversary on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at Walker Memorial. The IRDF has been instrumental in sustaining MIT's remarkable FSILG through community-wide grants (like the recent high-speed fiber connection linking all the Boston FSILGs to MIT), and educational grants and loans (like the construction loan with which our chapter financed the recent renovations). As a way to say "thanks" to the IRDF, a number of alumni—including our own Bob Ferrara '67—have organized an afternoon and evening of events to mark the occasion. All are welcome. For a complete schedule and to register for the dinner visit alumic.mit.edu/IRDF_50th_Anniversary.

Alumni Weekend: May 2-4

Beta Chapter would like to invite all alumni and actives to the house for this year's Spring Alumni Weekend, May 2-4, 2014. A full schedule of events will be posted shortly at ox.mit.edu/alumni, but expect a fun weekend of activities—including Friday dinner at the newly re-opened Crossroads, followed by Poker and Game Night; the annual alumni/active softball grudge match on Saturday followed by the Alumni Corporation meeting and semiformal dinner with singing and reminisces; and a brunch on Sunday at a local restaurant. We hope to see you there!

Reunion Open House: June 6

All brothers returning to MIT for their Reunions in 2014 are invited and encouraged to visit 528 Beacon for the Reunion Open House on Friday, June 6, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. This occasion affords returning alumni a chance to relax and see the house and the recent renovations first hand. For the past two Reunions, this event was just terrific, bringing together graduating seniors, their parents, Reunion-bound alumni, local alumni, and a scattering of actives living at 528 over the summer. Let's do it again! A number of brothers from the Alumni Corporation, as well as the summer active officers, will be on hand to greet people. We hope to see as many brothers and families as possible on June 6. If you are sure you are coming, RSVP theta_chi@mit.edu. You can expect a warm welcome.

ox.mit.edu

Beta Chapter Has Its Best Rush in Years!

This year's fall Rush was critical for the house's future. Both Rush chairs—and every active member—were sensitive to this issue, resulting in a very high-energy and successful Rush Week. At the end of the quite exhausting-but-rewarding week, we had 18 new pledges on board for the Marshal Program.

As we knew from the start that we were aiming for a large pledge class, we strategically planned our event schedule accordingly. Our events were organized in a way that allowed us to attract a large number of students with a variety of backgrounds and interests during the first few days. The main goal for events toward the end of the week was to help us get to know the potential new members who were frequenting the house. This strategy proved to be effective, as by the end of Rush, the new members were already feeling quite comfortable hanging around the house and interacting with the brothers.

We decided to organize many new events this Rush, which we believed portrayed our house's character well. In addition to fun events such as parasailing and a completely original game night for the incoming freshmen, we organized a very successful concert, collaborating with a local Boston band. This event not only grabbed the attention of many future pledges, but it was also a great opportunity for brothers to let loose during the extremely busy week. We are very thankful for the local band, The Rare Occasions, who helped us with this event, and we are currently planning a joint fundraiser event with them.

As much as events are useful, it is important to note that



Brothers and friends relaxing at the beach.

real recruitment is dependent on the brothers' enthusiasm and willingness to participate in the events and form meaningful bonds with incoming freshmen. On that note, I would like to recognize the outstanding per-

formance of all actives during this week; the success of this Rush resulted from their ability to honestly portray our house as the great community that it is. I find it important to mention that one of our brothers, Ari Vogel, was exceptionally active throughout Rush Week, and has been acknowledged for his enthusiasm and contribution.

In addition to our active members, we received quite a bit of support from many alumni, who not only helped us with the organization, but also were instrumental in the execution of many of our events. They lent us a helping hand when we were undermanned or struggling with certain behind-the-scenes portions of Rush, and for that we are very thankful. I would especially like to thank Michael Phillips for opening his house to us, Joe Hardy for helping us organize our rock climbing

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Hussein Abdallah '16 ponders an intimidating plate of spaghetti and meatballs.



Deniz, Andrew, and Jared getting pumped up for Rush Week!

Beta Chapter Has Its Best Rush in Years!

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event at his gym (Central Rock), and David Baumgartner, Ade Esho, John Busche, Ryan Andrews, Mario Scott, and Mark Tompkins for their advice and help with many of our events, as well as every other alumnus who has given us support.

Overall, we finished Rush Week with a very exciting and diverse pledge class. The most rewarding part of it all is to observe as these new members integrate themselves into our house, bringing new characteristics to our brotherhood, as well as forming their own identities influenced by the tradition and culture of Beta Chapter.

Deniz Aksel '15
Rush Chairman



Alumni, Meet the Fall 2013 New Members!



Hussein Abdallah
Dearborn, MI
Course 8
2016

I'm from Dearborn, Michigan, and I'm majoring in physics. I perform research in the MIT Lab for Nuclear Science. Some of my favorite things to do are running along the Esplanade, sleeping, trying new protein bars, exploring Boston, and anything involving fun and fitness.



Jamie Green
London, England
Course 18
2016

I am a Cambridge MIT Exchange student, studying at MIT for this year. I am a huge soccer fan, and my favorite team is Arsenal. I am interested in drama and theater arts. I am studying mathematics at Cambridge, and I hope one day to work for a financial firm in London.



Adam Sanders
Taunton, Somerset, England
Course 2/16
2015

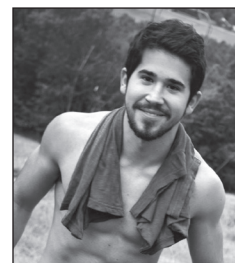
I am an exchange student from Cambridge University, although I am originally from Somerset, United Kingdom. I am studying a combination of mechanical and aeronautical engineering at school. I enjoy rowing and playing soccer. I also love playing music on the piano and listening to various genres.



Charlie Andrews
Los Angeles, CA
Undecided
2017

I'm a competitive rock climber and also enjoy traveling, eating, and playing basketball. I am still undecided as to what major I wish to pursue, however, I have interests in alternative

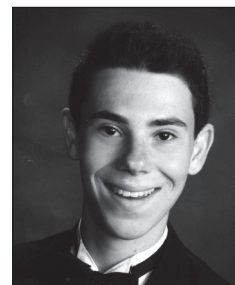
energy, astronomy, and astronautics. I am a member of the Marine Robotics Team at MIT, as well as CCC, Student Council, and the MIT Outdoor Club.



Naim Lujan
McAllen, TX
Course 6
2014

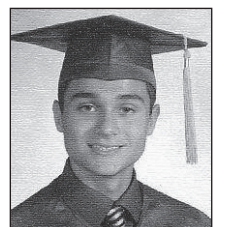
I am studying computer science and I hope to be graduating in 2014 if all goes well! My personal interests

include playing soccer, both on the field and with a video game controller. I also enjoy baking and experimenting with new recipes. I believe in personal fitness very strongly, and I work hard to maintain a healthy lifestyle.



Jack Spira
Burlingame, CA
Undecided
2017

I hail from the wondrous city of Burlingame, California, in the lovely San Francisco Bay Area. While I am undecided on a major, my academic interests include mechanical engineering, physics, and economics. I have the highest possible appreciation for film and literature, and when I'm not hitting the books, I enjoy playing varsity lacrosse at MIT, working on classic cars, skiing, and scuba diving.



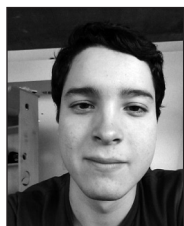
Anthony Preza
Montebello, CA
Undecided
2017

I have many interests aside from studying at MIT. I am the oldest child in the family, having three younger sisters. I have played the viola from a young age, and I also love to jam out on my guitar from time to time. I love playing soccer, going longboarding, playing FIFA, and listening to music.

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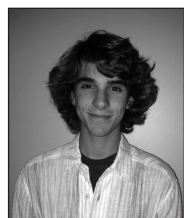
Alumni, Meet the Fall 2013 New Members!

(continued from page two)



Gustavo Montalvo
San Diego, CA
Course 16
2017

Although I am still undecided for my major, I am heavily leaning toward aerospace engineering, which is the best major ever. After school, I plan to move back to California since the weather is too good to pass up. I enjoy spending time with friends and family. I am also an incredibly skilled harmonica player, and I am thinking of reviving the harmonica club at MIT.



Oliver Dodd
Needham, MA
Course 7
2017

I am from the Cape Cod area of Massachusetts, and I plan to study biology at MIT.

In my spare time, I like to play guitar, as well as the viola. I am also an avid sailor. I taught sailing lessons over the summer in the Cape throughout high school, and I used to sail competitively as well. I enjoy most all forms of watersport, including wakeboarding, waterskiing, windsurfing, and even kitesurfing!



Christian Richardson
Grand Junction, CO
Course 20
2017

I am an outdoor addict from Colorado thinking of majoring in biological engineering at MIT. I am interested in rock climbing, downhill skiing, whitewater kayaking, international travel, backpacking, and delicious food. I am an amateur singer, and I enjoy watching television shows in my spare time.



Robbie Shaw
San Diego, CA
Course 10
2016

I am a sophomore majoring in chemical engineering. I speak English, Chinese, and Spanish fluently, and

I hope to travel to China for a summer or

semester. I enjoy music and playing the drums. I also like longboarding and skiing.



Sean Lowder
Raynham, MA
Course 22
2017

I was born and raised in Massachusetts, and I have spent most of my life in this wonderful state. I love watching and playing various sports, including hockey and lacrosse. When I graduate, I am going to become a Naval Officer. I want to study nuclear engineering and eventually work on nuclear submarines.



Nicholas James
Miami, FL
Course 16
2017

I am interested in studying aerospace engineering. I am currently in the Air Force ROTC program at MIT and plan on flying A-10 Thunderbolts in the Air Force after I graduate. I am interested in aviation and adrenaline. I am a true redneck and will do anything exciting as long as danger is involved. I enjoy going whitewater-kayaking and other extreme sports.



Henry Aspegren
Ann Arbor, MI
Undecided
2017

I enjoy playing hockey and lacrosse, and I am considering studying electrical engineering, as well as political science at MIT. I am interested in playing varsity lacrosse at MIT. I also love college football and basketball. In my free time I like to travel, and I own many leather-bound books.



Jonathan Casey
Wargrave, England
Course 2/20
2015

I am an exchange student from Cambridge University studying at MIT for the year. I am majoring in a mix of bio- and mechanical-engineering. I grew up in Wargrave, a small town about an hour's drive from London.

My interests outside of academics include watersports, going to raves, listening to music, and traveling.

Gearing Up for Our Next Relay for Life

As community service chair for the 2013-2014 school year, I have been trying to rebuild the community service and philanthropy program to get brothers more involved in reaching out to the greater Boston community outside and help those less fortunate than ourselves. This semester, ideas for future philanthropy events have been explored, and we have decided as a chapter to pursue hosting a charity concert for the benefit of the Lee Iacocca Foundation and its fight against Type I diabetes. We originally planned to have the concert in early December, but due to unfortunate booking issues, we have had to postpone until early February.

On December 6, seven brothers (Carlos Greaves '13, Preston Thompson '14, Alessandro Lira '15, Jose Burgos '15, Nikko James '17, Christian Richardson '17, and Jack Spira '17) represented Theta Chi by going to Community Servings in Jamaica Plain, and packaging foods specially made for people with terminal illnesses and depressed immune systems. It was great to see members of our chapter going out of their way to make a difference in the lives of others who are less fortunate.

What can Beta Chapter expect to see this semester? In addition to the previously mentioned charity concert, I plan on organizing monthly community service events so that our chapter can lend "a helping hand" to the community on a more frequent basis. Also, we are going to be gearing up for another massive campaign to raise money for this year's Relay for Life, supporting the American Cancer Society. In case you missed our campaign last year, we ended up raising more than \$4,000, making us among the top-three fundraising student groups at the event. We hope to do even better this year, so please search online for the Relay for Life of MIT website and donate to the Theta Chi Fraternity team page. Any size donation would be appreciated.

I am excited with the direction of the house community service program, and I can only hope that actives and alumni can help Beta Chapter change people's lives for the better.

Jose Burgos '15

President Takes a Look Back at the Past Year

At the beginning of this year, we knew we had a large task ahead of us with an important Rush. With the priceless help of many alumni and the dedication and hard work of our brothers, Rush was incredibly successful, with a large turnout at every event and huge amounts of momentum the whole week. We ended up with 18 pledges, and are analyzing key aspects of this Rush to learn what we should continue to do in the future. We had an active Marshal Program to engage these new pledges, including a return of the traditional Pledge Trip, choosing New York City as the destination.

As many of you have heard, several incidents at other fraternities and outdated documentation led the Boston Inspectional Services Department to revoke the assembly licenses of all Boston-side MIT fraternities in October. We hope we should be getting our assembly license back (possibly with higher numbers due to the open

layout of the first and second floors) near the beginning of the spring semester. In the meantime, without our assembly license, we haven't been allowed to have any events in the house, putting a slight damper on the social program. However, we found many ways to keep the spirit of Beta Chapter alive.

We had many of our annual events like Maine Retreat, VP Retreat (this year to an indoor paintball arena), Initiation, and Semiformal. For community service, we went to a food distribution center called Community Servings to help package low-cost food to be delivered to families in need. We even had many impromptu bonding moments, like watching Game 6 of the World Series at the house, and leaving with a couple of innings left to join the anticipatory celebration in Kenmore Square. Some brothers were even able to make it into Fenway Park to watch the postgame award ceremony.

One of our new initiatives this semester was the addition of the brotherhood chair. We wanted the program to have a big impact in its first semester, so we elected two highly involved former executive members (Andrew Moran '14 and Daniel Bulhosa '15) to serve as co-brotherhood chairs. The focus of the brotherhood chair is to actively encourage the bonding of brothers by creating initiatives and planning brother events. Some of the events started for brotherhood in its first semester were weekly game nights—involving poker, board games, and more—and occasional movie nights, in addition to a day-long hiking trip.

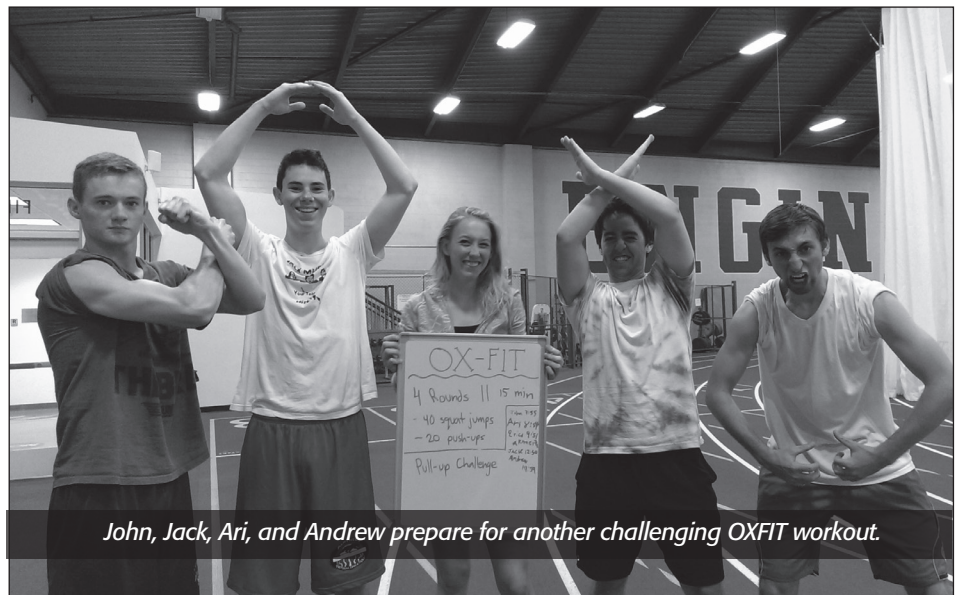
Overall, we've had a great semester at Beta Chapter, and we're looking forward to many more. We hope to see you at the upcoming Alumni Weekend this May!

Preston Thompson '14
President

Introducing the OXFIT Initiative

It's 11:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning. The stiff house awakens as unique alarms orchestrate a rising melody at 528. Shorts ... check. Shoes ... check. Vuvuzela ... check! Today, like all Sundays, marks another sweat-dripping, endorphin-releasing, and stress-relieving day as a group of Theta Chis begin their refreshing jog toward the dew-glistened esplanade along the Charles. With the aid of energizing music, they'll be faced against the clock to achieve as many reps as possible (we hope a new personal record) for cardio-working, strength-building, and mind-relaxing exercises. "And switch in 3 ... 2 ... 1!"

Welcome to OXFIT, a new initiative that allows brothers to challenge themselves physically and mentally while having fun and strengthening the brotherhood. As the current resident adviser, I am very happy and excited to be a part of this weekly program. Before the Sunday session, I use several exercise resources I've picked up from going to CrossFit and Yoga sessions to create a timed one-hour schedule that brothers can participate in. It usually consists of time trials of strength exercises such as lunge jumps, push-ups, sit-ups, squats, etc. mixed with several fun and competitive team and partner exercises such as "Absanity" or "Pull-up or Get Out." Along with music, jokes, and helping hands, our goal is focused on strength-building, confidence-building, and community-building.



John, Jack, Ari, and Andrew prepare for another challenging OXFIT workout.

Participating brothers can choose to push their limits, compete in a healthy environment, and relieve stress to get back to a focused and driven mentality to charge the Sunday p-set wall.

In addition to the weekly sessions, there is also a point system where brothers can earn points for exercising. A single workout, the gym, or a morning swim can earn you one point, but exercising with a brother earns you two. This encourages brothers to reach out and exercise with one another, allowing for opportunities to

strengthen the brotherhood. Rackin' up 15 points will earn you a free QuestBar, a deliciously healthy bar whose tastiness peaks right around 14 seconds in your typical standalone microwave.

All in all, I thoroughly enjoy spending time exercising and reaching common goals with the brothers. Sundays are always much more fun, focused, and fulfilling, when you are on a Quest with Theta Chi.

Steve Ojeda '12
Resident Adviser

Annual Fund Update

Thanks to all the donors to the Future of 528 Campaign; we have now solidified the mechanical systems of the house. One of the classic mistakes of capital campaigns is failure to provide for maintenance of capital improvements. We are going to avoid that mistake by focusing our Annual Fund on raising funds to provide for strategic maintenance. These funds will be used to maintain the improvements we have made.

2013 ANNUAL FUND DONOR LIST

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following alumni for their continued support in 2013!

Gregory Agami '93, Treasurers Lounge
Charles Albright '80, Ward
Frank Ansuini '63, Treasurers Lounge
Richard Ballman '46, Cavern
William Bayer '58, Treasurers Lounge
Dustin Berkovitz '02, Library
David Bold '58, Ward
Pete Bradish '68, Treasurers Lounge
Lee Bredbrenner '57, Ward
Richard Bryant '79, Treasurers Lounge
Owen Clements '84, Treasurers Lounge
Benjamin Dann '48, Library
Alan Davidson '89, Library
Nicholas DeCristofaro '71, Treasurers Lounge
Robert Demartini '41, Library
William Donelson '75, Treasurers Lounge
David Emero '90, Ward
Robert Frank '83, Roof Deck
Frederick Gander '65, Library

The Alumni Corporation has developed a 10-year schedule of strategic maintenance. We are budgeting about \$25,000 per year for this effort. We also need to pay off the mortgages we took out to fund renovation costs not covered by the capital campaign. We are planning to raise these funds through increases in the rent paid by actives and through the Annual Fund. We hope to raise \$25,000 per year as the alumni share of this effort.

James Gallagher '69, Ward
Leonard Glaeser '57, Treasurers Lounge
Lukasz Hall '05, Cavern
Robert Hance '81, Ward
John Helferich '79, Roof Deck
David Hermann '93, Roof Deck
Thomas Hinrichs '67, Treasurers Lounge
William Jessiman '63, Ward
Evan Karlik '07, Treasurers Lounge
Dave Keselica '83, Roof Deck
Norman Kneissler '60, Treasurers Lounge
Kenneth Kreischer '76, Library
David Kress '68, Treasurers Lounge
Robert Kurtz '63, Ward
Charles Lane '85, Treasurers Lounge
William Magnuson '09, Treasurers Lounge
Peter McKee '11, Treasurers Lounge
Daniel Money '87, Library
Richard Nixon '64, Cavern
William Pritchard '78, Treasurers Lounge
Kenneth Prytherch '49, Treasurers Lounge
Michael Quinn '86, Treasurers Lounge
William Rapoport '46, Library
Hank Rappaport '79, Treasurers Lounge
Alvin Richman '57, Library

We put the Annual Fund on hiatus during the Capital Campaign. We are now re-activating the Annual Fund. Please consider a donation to help us maintain the improvements we have made to the house. As during the Capital Campaign, donations can be made through SPGH to make your donation tax deductible.

John Helferich '79

Chester Riley '62, Roof Deck
John Rollwagen '62, Treasurers Lounge
Mario Scott '11, Treasurers Lounge
Earl Smiddy '58, Ward
Gary Smith '80, Cavern
Noel Spishak '75, Treasurers Lounge
Wayne Stargardt '74, Treasurers Lounge
Sam Stround '70, Ward
Morris Tao '00, Treasurers Lounge
Richard Waladt '50, Library
Dean Webber '60, Treasurers Lounge
Andrew Weiss '85, Treasurers Lounge
Gregory Wilson '79, Library
John Winninghoff '48, Cavern
Kevin Wang '10, Treasurers Lounge
Bruce Zotter '65, Cavern

DEFINITION OF LEVELS

Annual Giving Tiers:

The Cavern \$25
The Library \$50
The Treasurers Lounge \$100
The Ward \$250
The Roofdeck \$1,000

A Blast from the Past – Canadian Style

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Theta Chi was known as a very good hockey house. This happy situation was due in a large part to a number of fabulous Canadians who pledged the chapter. Perhaps the best of them all was Don Wismer '65, who only spent a year at 528 Beacon before transferring to the University of Alberta. He played Junior AAA hockey back home and, even as a freshman, was generally considered to be the best player in MIT hockey intramurals. It turns out that Don was also a very good Theta Chi, as attested to by this picture and article from a recent Theta Chi national news email. Thanks to Jim Poitras '61 for noticing this and passing it on for the rest of us. Here is the relevant text from the email:

On February 20, 1965, Zeta Gamma Chapter was installed at the University

of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, in the Dominion of Canada, making Theta Chi an international fraternity.

Don Wismer, a member of Beta Chapter at MIT, transferred to the University of Alberta in 1963. Upon learning that Theta Chi was attempting to form a colony, he enthusiastically contacted and assisted J.C. Byrd, executive assistant, with the recruitment of interested Alberta students. When Byrd left campus, a group of 22 men had joined the colony. After two years of continued growth and influence from Brother Wismer, the names of 39 men appeared on Zeta Gamma's Charter—and they pledged an additional 16 men that spring.



Zeta Gamma receives Charter (l-r): Executive Director George Chapman, National President Howard Alter, Beta Transfer Brother Donald Wismer, and National Vice President Mark McColm. McColm had traveled to Alberta at the request of George Chapman in February 1963 to meet with Alberta administrative officials and the IFC.

Memories of Crossroads Irish Pub and Zebra Lounge

When I originally solicited memories, the future of Crossroads was unclear. I am happy to report that at the end of December 2013, Crossroads REOPENED! Under the new owner, some notable changes have been made (e.g., darts were removed and many more TVs have been added); however, it is by and large the same bar we've come to know and love.

This is part two of "Memories of Crossroads Irish Pub and the Zebra Lounge." In this installment, we see the ebb and flow of interest in Crossroads in the house from 1980-2010. As before, I have edited some messages for length.

Ryan Andrews '10

In the late 1970s, Crossroads was where people went to buy a pizza on days they missed dinner or there was no dinner offered at the house. This is my recollection of its main function. I don't think people often went to such a close place to drink, even though the drinking age was 18. Going to pubs simply was not appealing to most of us.

When I returned to live in New England in 1999, I was amazed to enter Crossroads ... and see that it was a pub. I wondered: Was it always a pub? I had it in my head that Crossroads was a kind of fast-food restaurant ... the kind of place you go to buy a pizza!

Mark Lehrer '80

As I recall, we rarely went there. Instead we went to Fathers V for dime dogs and dollar pitchers.

Art Neergaard '83

While Crossroads was there, we didn't really go to it much at all. Our hangout was in the basement of the NW corner of Marlboro and Mass Ave, Father's Five. "Dad's," as we called it, was a dump, but they had dollar pitcher nights more than once a week serving swill called Knickerbocker beer.

Eric Weaver '83



In my years at the house we almost never went to Crossroads. The bar of choice was Fathers Five (aka "Dad's Dive"), in the basement at the corner of Mass and Marlboro. It had an odd mix of criminals, bikers, and MIT students, but they had 10-cent hot dogs, dollar pitchers, and some video games, so it was all good.

Dave Keselica '83

I predate the era when Crossroads was the go-to place. In the 1980s we drank and dodged bullets at Fathers Five across from the Marlboro Market. I do miss Crossroads now as I still live in the general area, and it's where I've been stopping after Red Sox games since they closed the Eliot Lounge.

Ron Spangler '86

During my time (1984-1987), Crossroads/Dad's were the starting and ending point of the Boston barbook IAP bar hop. Some local business sold a discount book, which included various drinking establishments around Boston. The book cost (circa mid-'80s) \$10 to \$15, but if one was dedicated one could easily recoup this in a single night if one went to each place, had the free drink, and then went to the next place. If I remember correctly, Crossroads was associated with several other pubs around Boston—the Bow and Arrow, and the cleverly named biker/leather bar, The Ramrod Room. The nature of the association was not exactly clear, but they were all in the bar book. I think Dad's/Crossroads were the informal training "gym" for the TX tank team (this "sport" has probably gone extinct).

Doug Singleton '87

I was nicknamed at Crossroads early my freshman year—eating dinner there with Bryan Moser and many members of my pledge class. The conversation revolved around future plans. I don't remember it that clearly for some reason, but all of a sudden everyone was talking about me in the context of this Dr. Seuss book I had never heard of. The rest is history and to this day, although not at the top of the heap or fallen into the pond muck, I remain ...

Steven "Yertle" Schondorf '88

I remember going there as a pre-frosh with a junior from Wellesley. I had told her I was visiting (from Cornell where I "was a sophomore"). House was having a party that night. Guillaume Amblard '87 told her friends I was a pre-frosh, so we had to leave to save her the embarrassment. First we



went to Father's Five then to Crossroads. I had a great time. Never saw her after that evening (I think she was too embarrassed). Knew I wanted to be a Theta Chi.

Andrew Good '89

I grew up going to bars in the bombed-out East Village of the 1980s: places with boarded-up windows and names like Downtown Beirut and Blanche's. There was no bar food (nor even taps for draft beer). When I arrived at Crossroads as a freshman in 1986-1987, it was therefore the place where I first discovered the (now) staples of bar food, memorably including Buffalo wings and potato skins. I think it is also the first place I encountered steak tips. I don't remember ever going there specifically to drink (beer was cheaper at the house, where we had a beer-vending machine upstairs and a big fridge full of it downstairs), or to meet girls (I don't recall there ever being any at Crossroads). We went there for food. I can't imagine the food was as good as I thought at the time, but it sure seemed tasty back then. Thanks for reminding me!

Simon Elsinger '90

I didn't frequent 'Roads as often as some other people did, but I did have some pretty fond memories there. The free pizza with a pitcher of beer special (Wednesdays?) was pretty popular at the time. Sure the pizza was crap, but it was free! Since our house was dry for a time, 'Roads was the only close place we could go for drinks, so it was even more of a vital part of our existence. Sad to hear that it's gone now. It was a good bar.

Morris Tao '00

In 2002, Greg Mahowald '02, Dustin Berkovitz '02, Ray Schmidt '03, and I (Dave LoBosco '02) painted the Theta Chi letters on the wall of the upstairs bar at Crossroads. The owners had recently repainted the walls, but left a row of rectangles unpainted near

Memories of Crossroads Irish Pub and Zebra Lounge

the ceiling where fraternities and sororities could paint their letters. We chose a spot near the dartboards where we used to hang out every Wednesday night when 'Roads offered a free pizza with each pitcher of beer. We stopped by one afternoon to paint the letters using red latex wall paint. When the red paint started to dry we realized that it looked pink so I ran up Mass. Ave. to an art supplies store near Tower Records to buy some dark acrylic red paint. Luckily this paint was the perfect Theta Chi red and saved us from humiliation of having pink letters on the wall.

Dave LoBosco '02
and Greg Mahowald '02

The night prior to my graduation from MIT, I went to have a beer with my father at 'Roads. We reflected on all the good (and tough) times at MIT during my four-year tenure. He then shared with me how appropriate it was to have a drink at 'Roads the night before graduation.



I had thought it was his first time there, but he informed me that he was there in 1978 when he graduated. He had dinner with his father (my grandfather). He told me it was actually an Italian restaurant at that time. It was nice to know that three generations of my family were able to share drinks and memories the night before MIT's commencement, 27 years apart.

Matt Hershcovitch '05

I remember the many birthday celebrations that began and ended at 'Roads. Cement mixers, Jager bombs, and Wild Turkeys punctuated some very memorable years. The other favorite of mine was Wednesday nights where we would shuttle in some special pizza slices for the \$10 pitcher and cheese pizza special—quite delicious!

Jordan Wan '06

I have many fond memories of Crossroads. During the 2008-2009 school year, there was a period where the bouncer gave any guy with an out-of-state license extra scrutiny when he wanted to get in (somehow, women were excluded from this ...). Apparently, there was an incident where someone with a fake ID had a little too much to drink at Crossroads, so the management was under some pressure to crack down on fakes (which were almost entirely modeled after out-of-state licenses, like Virginia or Maine). At this time, I still had my Pennsylvania license, but I realized that I could avoid any hassle by claiming

that I was a designated driver for someone already inside. This worked the first time, but after the second time, the bouncer saw me leaving alone and wanted to know why I lied to him about being a designated driver. Just when I thought I was trapped, a kind soul yelled out to me to "drive" his bike, thereby allowing me to save face. I rode his bike to the corner of Beacon and Charlesgate before handing it back to him. I never quite figured out who he was, but I appreciated his assistance. Needless to say, I never pulled the old "designated driver" story again.

Another good memory happened a few months after I graduated. The bartenders at 'Roads were never known for their knowledge of mixed drinks or shots, which often meant you had to tell them how to make the drink you wanted. One day, the bartenders were struggling to determine what the drink of the night should be, and I saw an opportunity to have some fun. I quickly looked up shots on my phone (the wonders of the internet age!), and the first one I saw was the "Alabama Slammer." I told them that I had invented a drink called "The Randrews," and gave them the recipe to make "Alabama Slammers." They bought it, and so the drink of the night became "The Randrews." Aided by a few other Theta Chis, I convinced a few people to buy the drink. I think the best line of the night came from a guy who said, "I love having Randrews inside me." Mildly inappropriate, but memorable nevertheless.

Ryan Andrews '10



our alumni send their news

"I received a phone call from Bruce Kline's son, Randy," reported **William R. Kincaid '49**. "He informed me that **Bruce Kline '48** passed away October 3, 2013. Bruce and his wife, Tibby, were living at a retirement home in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. For the last years of his life, Bruce suffered from Alzheimer's disease. Bruce asked his family not to publish an obituary, but Randy said it would be OK if I published something for his friends at MIT. Bruce and I entered Tech in the summer of 1944, and were able to complete our freshman year before we went into the Navy. Bruce became a yeoman and I an electronic technician. We returned to school in the fall of 1946. Right after the war there were far too many returning veterans for all to live at the fraternity house. Bruce and I elected to room together for the next three years first on Marlborough Street and later on Beacon Street, directly across from the fraternity house. Bruce was a superb roommate. He was smart, neat, hard working, thoughtful, and kind. We both graduated in June 1949. I left to enter the world of work. Bruce was an outstanding student and much in love with chemistry. He stayed at MIT and continued studying and earned his doctorate in chemistry. In addition to studying, Bruce courted a young lady and asked her to be his wife. She agreed. In the spring of 1950, he invited me and my fiancée to attend the ceremony. I was extremely proud to serve as his best man. To the best of my knowledge, this is the only wedding ceremony ever performed in the Theta Chi fraternity house. Bruce worked in the pharmaceutical industry and somewhere along the way was transferred to Canada. He and Tibby eventually became Canadian citizens so

she could open her own business. The Kline's had two sons, one of whom died in early middle age. Bruce and Tibby retired to Delray Beach, Florida, and my wife Shirley, and I were fortunate to visit them there several times. Bruce is gone but not forgotten." (1763 N. Mountain View Pl., Fullerton, CA 92831; wrk1927@gmail.com)

William "Bill" Bayer '58 is still working as a structural engineer in his own office. He is skiing, playing tennis, and has grandchildren who take up his time. Bill has been happily married for almost 52 years! Reconnect with him by writing to 125 Warnwoke Rd., Manchester, CT 06040; or by sending email to wbayer@csx.net.

"After living in the same house in Boxford, Massachusetts, for 41 years, I moved to Ipswich this past summer with Ann McCarthy, two cats, and one dog," reports **Norman Kneissler '60**. "We are literally minutes from Crene's Beach and perhaps 10 minutes more to Singing Beach in Manchester." Get in touch with Norm at 21 Ocean Dr., Ipswich, MA 01938; normkn@verizon.net.

James R. Thompson '79 reports, "Jane and I married and moved to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, from Pittsburgh seven years ago. We spent two weeks last fall circling

the Mediterranean—Italy, Egypt, Greece, and Turkey—a nice trip for an architect. This spring, we formed a new design firm—planning and designing schools. I won the spring primary to serve as Harrisburg School Board Director. Meanwhile, I continue to serve the MIT Educational Council, interviewing (and recruiting) high school students for admission. Reach me at jrthompson2302@gmail.com."

deceased

Richmond W. Smith '39
December 1, 2007

Frank E. Brown '44
April 10, 2008

G. Bruce Kline '48
October 3, 2013

John R. Joy '49
October 6, 2012

Malcolm J. Blair '53
June 13, 2007

Francis D. Russo '60
January 20, 2010

Paul G. Huber '78
June 8, 2009

Apologies to Dave Emero '90

On behalf of the Alumni Corporation, I want to apologize to Dave Emero for inadvertently leaving him off the Capital Campaign Fundraising Plaque. Dave was very generous in his contributions, and we are very sorry for this oversight. We are working on a solution now.

John Helferich '79

Poitras Family Honored by MetroWest Foundation

Theta Chi has benefited so much from the philanthropy of the Poitras family. Jim '61 was chair of our recent Renovation Campaign, but we are not alone. Philanthropy runs deep in the Poitras family. Jim and his wife, Pat, were acclaimed this past October by a major Boston area organization, the Foundation for MetroWest, as the Honorees of the Year. Their support of MetroWest, like their involvement with Theta Chi and MIT, has spanned many, many years. Pat especially has been a major mover over the years in building up MetroWest, which channels business philanthropy to areas of need in the



west-of-Boston region. This is not a small endeavor. More than 400 people attended the foundation's annual event at which Jim and Pat were honored.

Pat also has another very special connection to our campaign. It turns out her late cousin, Gerry Tattersfield '21, was one of the signers of the deed when the chapter moved to 528 Beacon Street. Through a serendipitous series of

events, she was instrumental in connecting her cousin's wishes to help Theta Chi with the campaign. Please note he is the most-senior donor on our campaign donor's list. We should all be thankful for people like the Poitras family.