



beta button

Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at MIT • Fall 2015

Annual Fund Update & a New Way to Donate

After many, many years of dysfunction, the sliding doors at the entrance of the dining room have been repaired. As our annual fund has raised more money than ever before, we have begun fulfilling our promise to continue to invest funds into the house to maintain its condition. Our first significant use of funds was to repair the long-broken pocket doors at the entrance of the dining room.

I first encountered these doors 40 years ago during Rush as they rattled close. The familiar thump-thump of the door as it slid over broken tracks is etched into my memory as one of the sounds of Theta Chi. No more! Stay tuned for other improvements funded by your annual contributions. We are considering a renovation of the guest bathroom off the sitting room.

Speaking of your annual fund donations, we can continue to pay down the house mortgages and fund maintenance to keep our MIT home sound. We have added a new option to our annual fund to make it easier to give. We now have an automatic debit system to allow monthly deductions from your bank account to the annual fund. A number of brothers have asked for the ability to make monthly deductions. Please send in the enclosed form if you are interested in this convenient way to donate and help secure the future of 528.

Reunion Open House JUNE 3, 2016

All brothers returning for their MIT Reunions, as well as local New England alumni are invited and encouraged to visit 528 Beacon for the Reunion Open House, on Friday, June 3, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. This occasion affords alumni a chance to relax and see the house and renovations first hand. For the past several Reunions, this event was turned into a real party, bringing together graduating seniors, their parents, Reunion-bound alumni, local Boston-area alumni, and several of the actives who are staying at 528 over the summer. So we are doing it again! A number of brothers from the Alumni Corporation and summer active officers will be on hand to greet people. We hope to see as many of you as possible on June 3. If you are sure you are coming, send an email to thetachi@mit.edu. You can expect a warm welcome.

ox.mit.edu

Composite Restoration in the Works

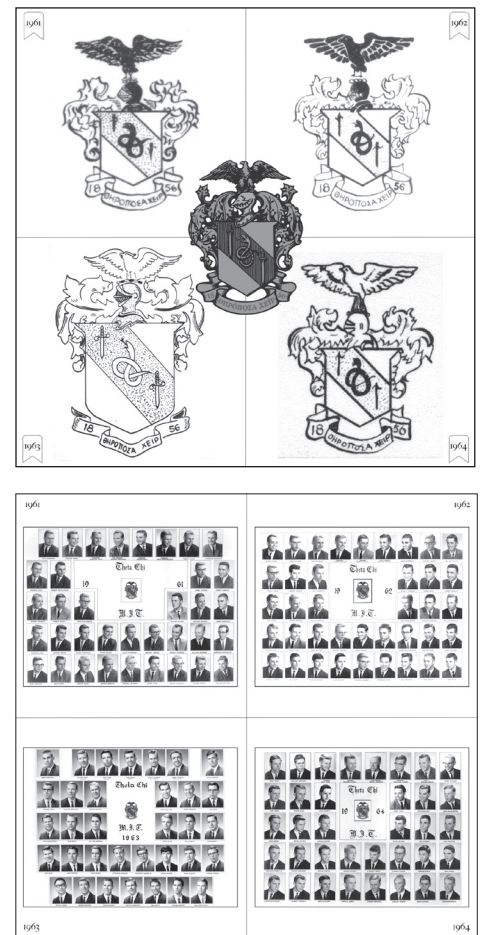
This past spring, Dick Nixon '64 got in touch with us about a great find: He had copies of the chapter membership composite photos from the four years he was in the house (1961–1964). This was especially welcome news since the oldest composite hanging in the house was from 1965.

Dick worked with Chet Riley '62 and Ross Runnion '04 to digitize and re-touch those photos. A digital version of each composite was created and supplemented with a high-resolution color crest provided by IHQ. We worked with local vendors this summer to print up the new composites and have them framed with careful attention to match our existing collection in scale and materials. The newly restored composites are now complete, and are hanging on the wall in the second-floor stairway—be sure to take a look next time you are visiting the house!

One particularly interesting aspect of the process involved the crest in the center of the composites. During re-touching it became clear that the design from among each of these four years was slightly different—but not due to any official changes. Apparently during that era the Theta Chi coat of arms was

hand-drawn each year and pasted on, making each one unique, with varying degrees of accuracy compared to the genuine article. Whether the drawing was done by a brother or by the photography studio is unclear (if you know the answer, please share it). A collage of these images can be seen below.

Two other composites were found in the house during summer Work Week this year from 1959 and 1960, which will extend the series yet again. The Alumni Corporation is working on reframing these now, and they will be hung up very soon. If you have knowledge of the whereabouts of any other composites going further back in time, please let us know; we'd love to continue to expand our gallery.



Introducing Our New Brothers!

Fall Rush 2015 was a satisfying success. Beginning Saturday, September 5, and running through the following Saturday, September 12, the week included a dazzling array of exciting events, and resulted in the giving of 20 bids, 14 of which were accepted.

Highlights of the week included the breaking of new ground on an astoundingly successful, Saturday evening brother-cooked meal of Jamaican jerk chicken (based on the family recipe of Justin Reid '18), accompanied by family-style macaroni and cheese (flawlessly prepared by Jesse Gibson '18), and followed by a "radio-active"-themed dance party. Sunday saw a reconstitution of a time-honored trip to Cape Cod for an afternoon of parasailing, jet skiing, and swimming, followed by a catered in-house dinner of steak and lobster. After the lack of a dam release cast our white-water rafting plans into jeopardy, Monday was salvaged by the generous intervention of Joe Hardy '04 of Central Rock Climbing, where we spent the afternoon.

Tuesday was composed of a return to a house favorite: a day of Whirlyball in central Connecticut followed by a barbecue dinner at Redbones in Cambridge, while we followed the first day of classes on Wednesday with an evening of candlepin bowling. The week wound down with an invite-only Thursday evening dinner in the North End, and finished strong with a return to the Cape for a night on the beach on Friday. Bids were delivered during the day on Friday, and began to be accepted over the course of Pledge Day, September 12.

This year's Rush would not have begun to approach the success that it was without the aid of two chapter alumni. Joe Hardy, mentioned above, allowed the chapter to save Monday by offering his facilities at Central Rock Climbing to stand in as an alternative event. But Will Gaviria '13 staying in the house for the first few days of the week preserved the sanity of the actives; he was unbelievably selfless in his willingness to offer a helping hand at every opportunity, whether it was advice after a long day, or cooking breakfast every morning before the day began. Enormous thanks go out to these gentlemen, without whom we would have come far, far short of the success we experienced.



Arturo Chavez was born and raised in Tuscon, Arizona. He's currently a sophomore interested in pursuing computer science and molecular biology.



Carlos Cuevas is joining Theta Chi as a junior this year. With a passion for aerospace engineering, Carlos can usually be found playing baseball or running.



All the way from New York, New York, **Arjun Mithal** is a freshman this year. Not sure of what he wants to study, Arjun's focus can usually be found on an MLB stream.



Ryan working on some project in his free time.



The newest ROTC member of the house, **Eric Koch** is a freshman who's really into physics.



Damon Berman, another freshman joining this year, is from New York, New York. Damon has been a pianist for years and has even written his own music.



Rawn Henry joins Theta Chi all the way from the Caribbean. He's no stranger to the gym and spends a lot of his free time playing intramural sports.

Lucas Novak is a freshman this year. While he's not sure what he wants to study, he's certain of his love for water polo. You can find Lucas at practices or games most days of the week.

Zachary Farr is also a freshman this year. He's thinking of several different career paths, but for now prefers to spend his time enjoying the relaxed setting of Pass/No Record.



Eduardo Sanchez is a physics fanatic. Even as a freshman, Eduardo knows he wants to be looking into doubling in physics and math when he graduates.



John Li is a freshman this year. Although he's at MIT, he certainly stays well-rounded, doing well enough academically to become a Gates Millennium Scholar.

Work Week Success

This previous work week, the actives were busy working on various projects, the largest of them being repainting much of the second floor. Brothers were very excited to partake in such a large project, one that will likely be appreciated for years to come. The new colors, inspired by our fraternity's colors, breathed new life into areas of the house that really needed it. The end result from this repainting is quite impressive, and I encourage any alumni that are passing by to take a look! The actives are fairly proud of their work here.

Another significant project completed during this time was the repair of the damaged pocket doors on the first and second floors. A repairman was contracted, and the actives helped out in any way they could during these repairs. The repairs were successful, and the doors are now fully functional once again. The doors now have working handles, and with the new coat of paint they were given, they appear almost good as new!

Aside from these two projects, there were a lot of other tasks to put the house in top shape for what ended up being a very successful Rush. Among these tasks were door handle repairs, some much needed cleaning of some bathrooms, getting rid of old broken junk, hanging up some restored composites from the '60s, and deep cleaning the kitchen, among a multitude of other things.

Altogether, this past work week was an especially productive one. This was all thanks to some very motivated actives

(continued on page four)

Featured Alumnus Interview: Chet Riley '62

As part of a series to highlight Theta Chi alumni, we interviewed Chet Riley '62. Chet was part of the MIT crew team, and is one of the only MIT alumni to go to the Olympics (Tokyo 1964). He served in the Air Force, spent 31 years as a pilot for American Airlines, and was an important force in the recent renovations of the house. The interview has been edited for space.

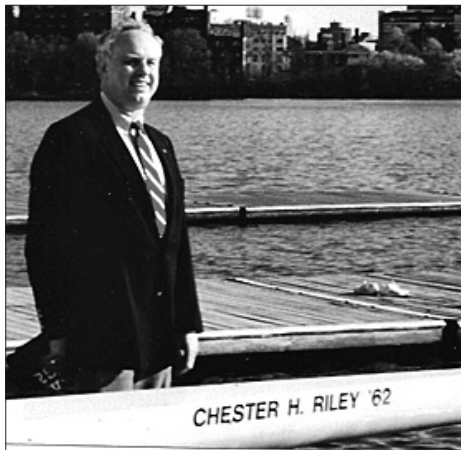


You competed in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. Tell us about that experience.

I was chosen to go as the starboard alternate for the Vesper 8, and we went over in September. The way it worked out, two of the guys in the boat got sick on the way over, and when we got to Japan they were in the infirmary. The port spare, Geoff Picard from Harvard, and I were in the boat until about three days prior to the first heat, when they got out of the hospital. We did some time trials, and the original group moved the boat as fast, and since they had won the trials, they deserved to be in it. They got back in and went on to win the gold. It was very exciting to be there and to be part of it.

There was an Olympic village, a former Army base just north of Tokyo, and all the teams were there. We were housed with the boxing team, including Joe Frazier. There were communal dining rooms so you could go and be there with people from all over—not just the U.S. team, but you could go to the dining halls for the other countries if you wanted to. There wasn't a ton of time to do that, given that you were out practicing every day. But there was a chance to meet people from different sports.

How did Theta Chi contribute to your success at MIT?



I've told this story many times. After my freshman year, I wasn't prepared for MIT. I went to a small school, and I didn't have a good background for MIT. I was hanging on by my fingernails, and I decided after my freshman year not to go back. One of the fraternity brothers was Dean Webber '60, though he should have been '58 but took a couple years off. He and I were good friends, and he was down at Falmouth where I was working summers. He called me up and asked when I was going back so we could ride up together. I said, "I'm not," so he said we should get together. We did, and we were chatting and he said, "You know, I've taken a year or two off, and I know what that means. It's difficult to come back. Here's how you might want to look at it. There are three parts to going to MIT. One is academics, one is the fraternity, and one is rowing. You've got two out of three, that's good enough."

And he was absolutely right. Rowing was the thing that gave me the ability to self-discipline, and also to be part of something like that. But the fraternity was probably the key issue in my staying in school. The help I got from my big brother, Charlie Negin '60, was that he finally got calculus through my head during that first semester. We had Jim Middlekauff and many different people who were there to help the freshmen. It was the whole thing, the social thing, the sports. I was the undergraduate treasurer for a couple years as well. Theta Chi was a big portion of my decision to continue at school.

After MIT, where has your career taken you?

After MIT I went to work for General Electric for about eight months while I was waiting to go to pilot training for the Air Force. I worked in Bridgeport for the headquarters group, setting up repair centers. I left there in 1963, Diane and I got married in March, and in April, we found ourselves in Selma, Alabama, where I was going to pilot training for a year.

After pilot training, I went to Philadelphia for the summer to row at Vesper Boat Club. After I got back from Tokyo, I trained on an Air Force transport, the C-135, the military version of the 707. I flew for four-and-a-half years worldwide with the Air Force to a lot of different places, mostly to Vietnam. When I completed my AF commitment, I decided I'd apply to fly

commercially. I applied to American Airlines, got hired, and furloughed a couple of times. That happened a lot in the airlines. You'd get furloughed back and forth, but after about four years it settled down, and I spent 31 years flying for AAL. My last trip was Halloween day of 1999, and I've been retired now 16 years.

You once were involved in labor negotiations with another Theta Chi brother, Bill Jessiman '63?

Yes, that was an interesting thing. I did a lot of work for the pilot's union for 20 years. I ended up being the chairman of the negotiating committee in the late '80s and Bill worked for the company in the crew resources department. In those days we didn't have a bad relationship with the company. We were putting some things into effect that both sides really wanted and needed. So we worked together on some projects, and often times Bill and I would be sitting on opposite sides of the table in the negotiations. But it wasn't so strange; we got along with most of the people on the other side of the table. There would be days of hollering and yelling, but that was mostly for show and rhetoric. We really had a good relationship, and had a lot of respect from them and for them, but it was kind of neat having Bill on the other side of the table.

You were also involved with the renovation.

After retirement I got involved with the house renovation. I was the corporation treasurer for that for six years. I think it was a really good project and brought the house back to good stead. I am really proud of the results.

What rooms did you live in?

3LF, 4LF, 3SR, 3LR. We switched around a lot. In those days, we all slept up in the fifth-floor Ward. By order of the fire department, we weren't supposed to sleep in those rooms at all.

Who were your big and little brothers?

My big brother was Charlie Negin '60, and my little brother was Dick Nixon '64.

I'd just summarize by saying that of the three pillars of my going to school, the thing that kept me in the most was Dean getting me back and because of all the help I received from the fraternity.

If you know somebody who should be featured in the featured alumni series, please contact David Baumgartner at davidsb@alum.mit.edu.

our alumni send their news

John D. Winninghoff '48 writes he was a USAF B-29 pilot in World War II, USAF pilot in the Korean conflict, and R&D contracting officer at Wright-Patterson Field. He then worked 22 years in reconnaissance liaisons, as well as marketing and program management. He started Winninghoff Boat in 1974 in Gloucester, moving it to its present location in 1978. He then "rezoned the shop to half commercial/half residential and built an apartment in the shop, designed around pool table placement." The business continues, downsized, and he is "doing more and more writing on senior subjects, e.g. freedom, tolerance, inflation is my life. (Tech cost \$600 a year in the '40s.)" Drop him a line at 55 Warehouse Lane, Rowley, MA 01969; or jdwwinninghoff.com.

Frank A. Ruiz '76 writes, "An old Texan told me, 'Every Texas drought ends in a flood.' He didn't tell me they would be proportional; the worse the drought, the worse the flood." He watched Grapevine Lake near his house rise from 12-and-a-half feet low to 25-feet high, or plus

37-and-a-half feet, in eight weeks. It then rose another three feet higher than the emergency spillway. "A mere 100 feet from my back fence looks like a Louisiana bayou!" His eldest son, Tony, was home over the summer for his annual leave from the Army. He is stationed at Vilseck, near Nuremburg, and the Fulda Gap. Catch up with Frank at 2108 Beachview Drive, Flower Mound, TX 75022; or frankruiz@att.net.

Arup R. Guha '97 has been working as an instructor in the computer science department at the University of Central Florida in Orlando for the past 15 years. As part of his job he helps coach the programming team, "which actually edged out MIT's team in the 2014 ACM International Collegiate Programming competition in Russia!" He got married three years ago to another Floridian, Anita. They have two daughters, Simran, 10, and Anya, 2, at home. "I spend most of my time at home listening to Anya's strange requests, like feeding her stuffed hippo real food." Contact him at 337 Oak Estates Drive, Orlando, FL 32806;

or dmarino@cs.ucf.edu.

Scott A. Barth '07 writes, "In addition to my day job as a manager at a local PCB fab house, I am working on fixing up a foreclosed home in beautiful Watts, California. Please give me a holler if any alumni are visiting Los Angeles or need help designing or manufacturing electronics." Get in touch at 1848 17th St., #1, Santa Monica, CA 90404; or scott.a.barth@gmail.com.

deceased

Judge E. McLaughlin '48
May 1, 2015

Robert A. Hazan '58
May 27, 2015



Work Week, cont'd.

putting in work, particularly our newest brothers from the class of 2018; they were the biggest presence throughout work week, and they really got a lot of these projects rolling, so big thanks to them and all brothers who helped during this very important week.

2014–2015 Honor Roll of Donors

This honor roll includes gifts received from July 25, 2014, through November 18, 2015.

The Roof Deck

(\$2,500 or more)
Robert A. Frank '83

The Ward

(\$1,000–\$2,499)
David R. Bold '58
Robert B. Hance IV '81
Steven P. Margossian '88
Frank A. Ruiz '76

The Treasurer's Lounge

(\$500–\$999)
Keith F. Ashelin '83
Michael J. Nohaile '90
Chester H. Riley '62
Bruce C. Zotter '65

The Library

(\$100–\$499)
Gregory M. Agami '93
Frank J. Ansuini '63
Dustin Scott Berkovitz '02
Peter K. Bradish '68

William J. Brady '57
Richard S. Bryant '79
Terrance A. Chinn '65
Nicholas J. DeCristofaro '71
Raymond F. Ferrara '67
William R. Freeman Jr. '51
Frederick W. Gander Jr. '65
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William A. Jessiman '63
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William F. Johnston V '00
Norman W. Kneissler '60
David W. Kress Jr. '67
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Gary B. Rose '65
Noel A. Spishak '75
Ilkka T. Suvanto '68
Richard E. Waltdt '50
Dean A. Webber '60
Gregory J. Wilson '79

Up to \$99

Richard L. Ballman '46
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Richard A. Jacobs '56
Jason S. Ku '09
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Gary F. Smith '80