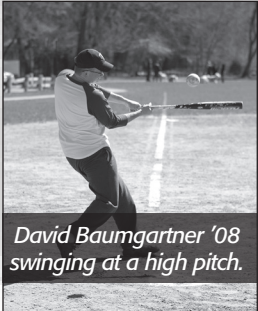




beta button

Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at MIT • Summer 2015

Alumni Weekend Recap



David Baumgartner '08 swinging at a high pitch.

Alumni Weekend was held April 24–26 this year, and it was a blast! Backed up by spectacular weather, it was quite a relief compared to this winter (see article to right).

We started out on Friday night with an enthusiastic game of

poker. It was Dealer's Choice, and we were sure to hit on classics and newer games, like Chewie's Challenge, Tin Cup, Anaconda, and Cornfields.

Saturday we kicked off with the traditional game of alumni versus actives softball. The actives had printed special Theta Chi jerseys for the game, with actives wearing red and alumni wearing blue. At Amory Field in Brookline, the alumni got off to an early lead, but a late-inning comeback put the actives ahead by a score of 11–9, breaking a recent streak of alumni victories. Congrats!

A surf-and-turf dinner from Chef John was well attended, with Theta Chis ranging from the classes of 1962 to 2018. The Alumnus of the Year award was presented to Ryan Andrews '10, the Alumni Corporation secretary, for his continued involvement in the chapter and his willingness to contribute to discussions and policy matters among the actives. This well-deserved award was voted on and presented by the undergraduates.

Brunch on Sunday was held at McGreevey's on Boylston, where we worked to refuel after the games of the previous night and send off the out-of-town crowd.

Each Alumni Weekend, the Beta Chapter Alumni Corporation holds its annual meeting. Vice President John Helferich '79 was re-elected, and we elected Jason Ku '09 as the new treasurer. They join the existing officers of the corporation, Secretary Ryan Andrews '10 and President David Baumgartner '08. Jason will be taking

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The State of the Fraternity

This past semester has been an exciting time to be in the fraternity. Our new members have been bringing a lot of new life into the chapter and have stepped up to positions, including social, risk, marshal, treasurer, chaplain, and athletics. They are staying active and making a positive impact in the house. Between our strong freshman class and the sophomore class moving into the house, we've seen a rejuvenation of our chapter over the past semester. We're also running our first spring pledge program in years after two freshmen accepted their bids.

This semester hasn't been completely without setbacks. As I'm sure many of you know, we cannot currently use our roof deck. Boston has imposed an indefinite ban on holding social events on fraternity roof decks, and at this point, the city does not recognize our deck as properly permitted. We began the process of getting it reapproved before the winter, but the snow cover delayed the process, and the city of Boston hasn't made it easy for us either.

The city and MIT are also continuing the restrictions on normal social events as well, but the approval of a new codified social policy has helped smooth everything out. Our social chairs have been doing a great job keeping the events going and morale up. We've also spent more hours than we care to admit participating in brother bonding over *Super Smash Bros*.

We have survived the snowiest winter in Boston's history, which at 110.6" snowfall, has set the overall record, as well as several other records. The brothers banded together to shovel the parking lot, sidewalk, and roof to prevent accidents. The snow hampered supply trips for



A parking meter and a bicycle completely covered in snow after a February blizzard.



A view of Beacon Street after heavy snowfall this winter.

Work Week, but we still fixed things up and made the house look great. Our efforts made sure that no pipes burst and the roof deck (while still not re-permitted) is intact. All the snow also led to some great snowball fights, including a snowball-themed philanthropy event, and sledding trips. Overall, this has been a great semester, and I look forward to many more!

Nikko James '17
President



Actives and Alumni chill out in the Library wearing new custom-made Theta Chi sunglasses.

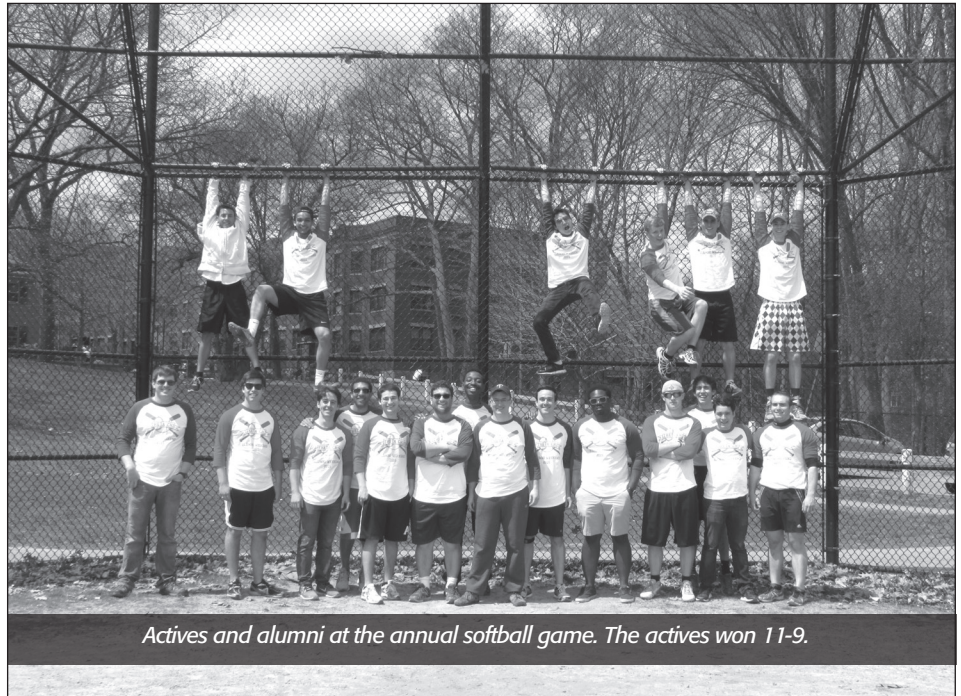
Alumni Weekend Recap (cont'd)

over for Bob Ferrara '67, whom I would like to thank for his service as treasurer over the past two years and his willingness to continue to serve as assistant treasurer. Bob's connection to MIT through his job in the FSILG office has proven invaluable to our house, and we are certainly thankful for his involvement through the years.

I'd also encourage anyone with an interest in getting involved with the alumni corporation or chapter advisory board to get in contact with me via the email below. We are looking for any level of involvement—it could be taking on a particular advisory role, helping out with planning events, or taking on a leadership role within the corporation.

For those who weren't able to make it, we hope you can join us next year. Keep an eye out for a "save the date" in the next edition of the *Beta Button* and an email invite early next spring!

David Baumgartner '08
Alumni Corporation President
daidsb@alum.mit.edu



A Record Setting Year for the Annual Fund!

Thanks to the generosity of 77 brothers in 2014, the Annual Fund received a record setting \$22,913. We just missed our target of \$25,000 as laid out in our long-range plan. A list of donors from 2014 and a list of the 21 alumni who have donated so far in 2015 are below.

These funds, combined with house rent increases, have increased the funds available to the Alumni Corporation. These funds are being used to pay down the remaining mortgages incurred during the renovation and to fund maintenance of the improvements made during the renovation.

We hope to improve this performance with 100 brothers contributing an average of \$250 to get us to our annual goal of \$25,000 this year. This generosity will ensure the improvements made during the renovation will last for generations of Theta Chis at MIT.

John Helferich '79 and Jason Ku '09

2014

Gregory Agami '93
Charles Albright '80
Frank Ansuini '63
Richard L. Ballman '46
William A. Bayer '58
Dustin S. Berkovitz '02
Dave Bold '58
Peter Bradish '68
William Brady '57
Richard Bryant '79
Terrance Chinn '65
Owen J. Clements '84
Benjamin G. Dann '48
Nicholas DeCristofaro '71
Robert J. Demartini '41
John L. Deryck '59
David Emero '90
Raymond Ferrara '67
Robert Ferrara '67
Robert Frank '83

William R. Freeman '51
James L. Gallagher '69
Rick Gander '65
K. Winston Gardner '68
Leonard F. Glaeser Jr. '57
Lukasz S. Hall '05
Chip Hance '81
Robert B. Hance '81
P.J. Hart '06
Stephen Howland '11
Richard Jacobs '56
William A. Jessiman '63
Willard Johnson '59
William Johnston '00
Evan A. Karlik '07
David Keselica '83
William Kincaid '49
Norman W. Kneissler '60
Kenneth E. Kreisler '76
David Kress '67
Charles T. Lane '85

Bill Magnuson '09
Steve Margossian '88
Peter McKee '11
Daniel C. Money '87
Richard J. Nixon '64
Michael Nohaile '90
Edward A. Ort '52
James Poitras '62
Robert Pollard '47
John L. Preston Jr. '68
Richard Price '50
William F. Pritchard '78
Kenneth Prytherch '49
Michael J. Quinn '86
William J. Rapoport '46
Steven Rappaport '79
Alvin Richman '57
Chet Riley '62
John A. Rollwagen '62
Gary Rose '65
Frank Ruiz '76

Peter Rutherford '84
Francisco San Miguel '58
Earl Smiddy '58
Gary F. Smith '80
Noel A. Spishak '75
Wayne Stargardt '74
Ilkka Suvanto '68
Morris M. Tao '00
Diogo B. Teixeira '67
Richard E. Waltdt '50
Kevin Wang '09
Dean A. Webber '60
Gregory J. Wilson '79
John D. Winninghoff '48
Bruce C. Zotter '65

2015

Greg Agami '93
Charles Albright '80
Richard Aquadro '52
Keith Ashelin '83

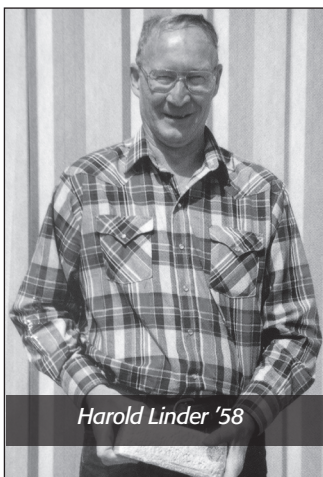
Ben Dann '48
David Baumgartner '08
Nick DeCristofaro '71
David Emero '90
Tim Gilmore '70
Bill Jessiman '63
Norm Kneissler '60
Dave Kress '67
Charles Lane '85
Jay Mackro '71
Otto Robinson '60
William Pritchard '78
Steven Rappaport '79
Francisco San Miguel '58
Noel Spishak '75
Richard Waltdt '50
Dean Webber '60

Featured Alumnus Harold Linder '58 Publishes *Wild Places: The Life of an Exploration Geologist*

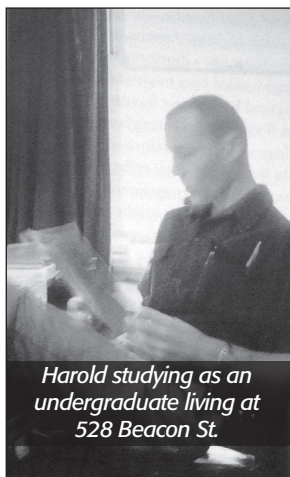
This article is part of a series to highlight notable Beta Chapter alumni. If you know of an alumnus who would like to be featured in a future issue of the Button, please contact David Baumgartner at davidsb@alum.mit.edu or Mark Tompkins at markt02@alum.mit.edu.

After a 50-year career that brought him to all seven continents, Beta Chapter alumnus Harold Linder '58 recently published the book, *Wild Places: The Life of an Exploration Geologist*, about his exploits and adventures. The book is a fascinating account of Harold's life, starting with his years at MIT and Theta Chi, and in it he describes his experiences commuting to work by canoe and snowshoeing in Canada, participating in an expedition to the Transantarctic Mountains and the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica, and much more. He was kind enough to donate a copy of this interesting book to the house, and I highly recommend checking it out when you visit, or look for it on Amazon.

Harold spends several pages describing his life as a part of Theta Chi. The chapter



Harold Linder '58



Harold studying as an undergraduate living at 528 Beacon St.

had about 50 active members in his day, so many that some of the upperclassmen had to rent apartments in the area. He describes the long-gone days of hazing, including a very funny scavenger hunt, various shenanigans that the brothers participated in, and general fraternity life. Favorite quote: "[House] meetings tended to be unfocused, and some people had to be heard on everything while others were automatically opposed to anything, without regard for consistency or logic." It seems some things never change.

Nikko James '17

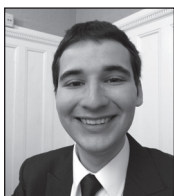
Jim & Pat Poitras's Daughter Wins an Oscar!

Hollywood and MIT Theta Chi do not often occur in the same sentence. But that all changed when Laura Poitras, daughter of Jim '61 and Pat Poitras, was awarded an Oscar this year for the Best Documentary Film. Jim is justly famous in Beta circles for leading our successful Renovation Campaign, and his wife, Pat, has deep roots as well. Her uncle, Jerry Tattersfield '21, was one the brothers who helped Theta Chi move into 528 Beacon back in 1922, from the chapter's previous home at 161 Bay State Road.

Can you imagine how proud they are! During February Oscar time, they had to watch the ceremonies in Hong Kong from a room at the Mira Hotel at the crack of dawn. They were on world cruise at the time, but picked the Mira Hotel because that is where Laura filmed part of her Oscar-winning *Citizen Four*.

As I've learned from several others in the documentary film community, Laura was a legend long before this latest film. She is known for unflinchingly taking on the toughest, most complex contemporary issues. *Citizen Four* narrates the story of Edward Snowden and what led him to make his revelations on the extent of government surveillance. Laura is shown here at the Vanity Fair "after party," with the Oscar in the right hand and her sister, Jen, on the left.

What's Next for the Class of 2015?



Axel Martinez: After graduation, I plan on moving down to Florida with my wife. All of my family live in Florida, and the weather is a lot nicer down there. I plan on working as a school teacher, teaching physics and chemistry. One of my favorite memories from the house would have to be playing poker with the alumni. They would bring refreshments, we would have a great time, and they practically gave me all of their money, it was too good.



Haldun Anil: After graduating, I will be moving to Washington, D.C., where I'll begin working as a business analyst at

Capital One. At Cap One, I'll most likely be doing internal consulting and business development for the credit card business. One of my favorite memories at Theta Chi is [redacted].



Ari Vogel: After graduation I will be moving to Seattle to work as a software engineer for Amazon (working on Amazon web services). I plan to start in September, so I'll have some time this summer to unwind and probably travel a bit. I look forward to the "next step," but I'll definitely miss being at MIT, and living at Theta Chi. My fondest memories are the late nights spent together doing work (or, more realistically, procrastinating). The people

(continued on page four)



our alumni send their news

Robert "Bob" Sundbled '44 is now living in Cypress Cove, Ft. Myers, Florida. Reconnect with him by writing 10100 Cypress Cove Blvd #173; Ft. Myers, FL 33908.

Al Richman '57 retired in 2006 from U.S. State Department after 36 years in U.S. government. He is enjoying his six grandkids and still skiing and teaching his grandchildren how to ski. Let him know of any ski weekends in the future—he didn't ski when he lived in the house, but he does now! (3914 Morrison St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20015.)

Tim Gilmore '70 is a grandpa to two, a father to three daughters, and has been married for 42 years! Catch up with him at 1512 N. 39th St., Seattle, WA 98103.

"I am currently at Amgen leading a large transformation of the company," writes **Michael Nohaile '90**. "We just moved back to the U.S. from Switzerland a couple years ago. We spent six years there, during which time I built a diagnostic unit for Novartis. Prior to that, I was a partner at McKinsey & Company after bailing out of science (who would have believed it?)."

I have two little girls, ages 4 and 2, and am really enjoying Los Angeles." Get in touch with Mike by sending postal mail to 16860 W. Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.

deceased

George C. Sweeney Jr. '48
January 15, 2015

What's Next? (cont'd)

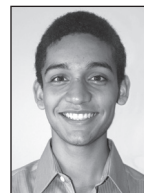
I've been able to live with turned potentially harrowing nights into fun experiences as we all got to enjoy one another's company and goof off. I'd like to thank everyone at Theta Chi for the great memories, and I expect to keep in touch.



Jose Burgos: I have no post-graduation plans (as of April), but I am actively searching for manufacturing or R&D positions involving metallurgy or other materials-related products.



Dan Bulhosa-Solorzano: After graduation, I plan to dedicate myself full time to entrepreneurship. Presently Andrew Moran '14 and I are collaborating on a project that we aim to turn into a virtual reality tools start-up. Along with the third member of our team, we are in the process of developing a beta product for an air traffic control 3D data visualizer, creating a business plan, and applying to a variety of accelerators across the country.



Alessandro Lira: After graduation, I will immediately be heading home to be a groomsman in my best friend's wedding. After that, I plan to take a bit of time to travel. After visiting old friends and traveling abroad, I plan on returning to the U.S. and pursuing an engineering career in the aerospace sector of California.

