



# beta button

Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at MIT • Fall 2017

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## Theta Chi Alumni Weekend

April 27–29, 2018  
Boston

## Tech Reunion Open House

June 8, 2018  
3:00–5:00 p.m.  
528 Beacon St.



[ox.mit.edu](http://ox.mit.edu)



## Charlie Andrews: American Ninja Warrior

Last winter, I got the chance to do something I had been interested in for a long time: to compete on *American Ninja Warrior*. There are over 70,000 applicants every year, so I knew that my chances of getting on the show would be pretty slim. The casting producers let one of my friends know that I would get the callback, and he organized a surprise for me where most of the active brothers at Theta Chi all jumped out and congratulated me when I received the callback. They told me I would be on the show. I thought it was a bit strange that 20-plus brothers were playing Super Smash Bros. on a Wednesday night, but they still took me totally by surprise when they ran downstairs as I was getting the call.

Competing was as fun and terrifying as it looks. ANW consists of several rounds of very difficult obstacle courses, each of which contains brand new obstacles, so it was challenging to train in advance, not knowing what to expect. There are about 10 million people who watch, so even for the obstacles you are prepared for, you have to steel yourself mentally to get through them.

I climbed a lot to get my fitness up (I've been climbing competitively for

14 years, so I knew some good workouts), and fortunately, that paid off, because some of the harder obstacles in my region were finger strength and endurance intensive.

I made it past qualifiers and had the chance to compete in the Los Angeles finals, which were filmed the next night.

I was fortunate to become the first finisher of a city finals course all season, one of nine in total, and the only

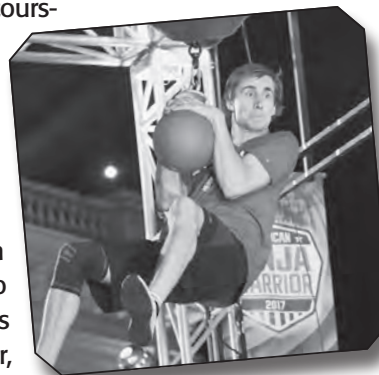
rookie to do it this year. My finals run wasn't perfect, but my training gave me some wiggle room, and I walked away with POM Run of the Night. At the time, I was overjoyed.

Sadly, I could not compete in the national finals in Las Vegas; I was injured about a week later in a filming accident. They sent a film crew out to Boston to

get footage of me demonstrating some exercises and talking about being a student at MIT, and I was severely injured about two hours into the shoot. Fortunately, I am making a full recovery now, and I am as physically capable as I was before the accident took place—perhaps more so—because

I am incredibly motivated to keep taking care of my body and getting better.

Charlie Andrews



# Successful Rush Attains Nine New Brothers

As you all know, rush is perhaps the single most important week for the continuation of our house. However, this year, before rush even began, it was clear from the exceptionally large number of brothers taking on responsibilities as leaders of freshman pre-orientation programs that many brothers couldn't wait to begin the process of getting to know many of the diverse, interesting members of the class of 2021. These programs give the upperclassman leaders an opportunity to get to know several members of the incoming freshman class, as well as to provide the freshmen with a solid group of friends right from the beginning of their experience at MIT. The enthusiasm for participating in these programs is not surprising, however, because it allows the upperclassmen who volunteer to take on these leadership roles to both meet new, interesting people and to expose them to a subject they are extremely passionate about. Many of the freshmen who came to visit our house during rush initially met a brother at one of these programs.

The rush chairmen slightly reorganized the schedule of events this year to employ a strategy that has given us much success in previous years. This strategy involves hosting events early in the process that attract a large, highly diverse group of potential new members and then holding smaller events later in the week that allow us to really get to know the ones with whom we share a mutual interest. This year, our jaunts were: parasailing, jetskiing, American Ninja Warrior training, and archery tag. For the fourth year in a row, the strategy proved to be effective; we concluded the process with all nine of our bids being accepted. This

is really a testament to the mutual excitement shared between the house and each of these new members.

While careful planning and strategizing by the rush chairmen is critical for a successful rush, the outcome is, of course, heavily dependent on the active members' participation in events and getting to know potential new members. Historically, we have found that the members of the junior class, having experienced rush as brothers once already but closer in age to the freshmen than the seniors, have been the most significant contributors to rush. The members of the class of 2019 were no exception.

However, more so than in the past, the most recently initiated class contributed quite significantly to their first rush as brothers, making up for what they lacked in experience with the excitement they brought to the house. Several of the sophomores showed exceptional commitment to rush this year, despite their frequent preoccupation with both academics and other responsibilities during the semester. The senior class, too, was quite involved, and their experience made their contributions incredibly valuable.

Not all of rush went as originally planned, though. To our disappointment, the place that we go to play whirlyball, an event that has historically been both successful and a brother favorite, has officially closed down. Rush Chairman Henry Hanlon '20, however, was able to turn the situation around by filling the empty event slot with archery tag (think laser tag but with bows and arrows), an equally exciting and quirky activity that helps demonstrate this house's culture.

We would, of course, like to thank several alumni for their support during rush. Ultimately, however, the success of rush hinges on the active members' ability to come together as a house as we work through the intense, highly competitive process that is formal recruitment at MIT. While we are quite proud of our new pledge class, rush was also quite valuable for our brotherhood, because the current brothers' shared enthusiasm for the process really brought us much closer together.

## Introducing Our Newest Brothers

My name is Ian Miller. I'm from Orlando Florida. I am a walk-on to the heavy-weight crew team, and I am a first-year cadet in Army ROTC. I like playing basketball and watching *The Office* in my free time.



My name is Luis Gallegos. I'm from Denver, Colorado, and aside from academics, I love music. I play violin and piano, and I'm in the MIT Symphony Orchestra.



Quilee Simeon is a sagacious young man who often contemplates intensively on varied and abstract concepts. A scientist at heart, he consistently strives to deeply understand problems, as well as the perspectives of others. His passions are in the areas of biology, economics, and applied mathematics. Quilee enjoys singing and is an avid reader and a practiced public speaker.



I'm James Parsons '21, hailing from Seattle, Washington! I'll be doubling the number of Course 22 brothers in the house, but I'll likely be the only one to have re-



*... parasailing,  
jetskiing,  
American Ninja  
Warrior training,  
and archery tag!*



## Newest Brothers, cont.

fined uranium. When I'm not tooling away at a pset, you can find me painting, playing *Destiny 2*, or making props and costumes from my favorite video games!



My name is Alex Evenchik, and I was born and raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I'm also on the men's lightweight crew team and really enjoy acting and doing ceramics.

Originally from Maryland, Nathanael Assefa is gripped with a passion for both mathematics and chemical engineering. Transferring to MIT from Rice University, he has enjoyed sailing, rowing, and numerous other aquatic sports.

Liam Ackerman hails from Miami, Florida. A pole vaulter with MIT track and field, Liam is intent on pursuing Course 6-2 and is fascinated by the applications of a computer science background to practical problems in technology and life.



My name is Eesam Hourani, and I'm pursuing Course 20. I was born and raised in Denver, Colorado, and it's been my dream to work in the medical field since I was a kid. I'm really interested in applying engineering concepts to both health-related problems and larger issues of medical inequity. I'm on MIT's mock trial team and am a prospective EMS member. I enjoy the outdoors, especially biking, hiking, and kayaking, and I'm always looking to cross things off my bucket list.

Coming to MIT from the wilds of Alaska, Lucas Arthur is an avid runner, capable of outracing even the swiftest active brothers. Uncertain what he intends to study, Lucas enjoys hiking, as well as looking at rocks and cloud gazing.



## Reunion Open House at 528 Beacon Friday, June 9, 2017

The Commencement and Reunion Weekend receptions at 528 Beacon are becoming very special traditions as we welcome parents of graduating seniors and Reunion goes back to the house. The 2017 version, on Friday, June 9, was among the best attended ever! Besides the usual local brothers and Theta Chi Alumni Corporation (OxBetaCorp) officers, several active brothers were also on hand to greet a crowd of brothers and significant others returning to MIT for their MIT reunions.

The parents and the seniors enjoy this relaxing break after a long morning's Commencement ceremony, and the older brothers always relish being back at 528 Beacon and getting

to know some of the younger actives, who are keeping the Theta Chi tradition alive at MIT. We Theta Chis have been living at 528 Beacon for 95 years and have had a chapter at MIT for 115 years now, so that's quite a legacy by any standard. These open houses are now a June Commencement and Graduation Weekend fixture, so plan on visiting 528 Beacon when your turn comes out. You will see a lot that is familiar and meet some new brothers and friends you have not yet met!

*Graduating senior Christian Richardson '17 (third from left) and his family in the dining room. Chet Riley '62 is in the background and Jesse Gibson '18 on the right.*



## Charlesgate Alliance Welcomes Students to Improve the Neighborhood!

The Charlesgate Alliance is a new Back Bay neighborhood group organized this past summer to bring positive change to the Charlesgate area, of which Theta Chi is an integral part. The leaders are extremely welcoming and describe themselves as pro student. They are hoping that the local students will be a key force in cleaning up and improving the public land in and around the Beacon Street overpass, which was built at the end the block back in the 1960s.

The mission of the Alliance reads: "We are dedicated to improving Charlesgate Park and to knitting together the Charlesgate district. We promise to become an

effective new force to defend and serve our diverse and dynamic neighborhood". Our Theta Chi Alumni Corporation and the undergrads have joined the Alliance. However, our next door neighbors, the Phi Kappa Sigmas, beat us to it by about a month. The picture (below) shows show a group of them during the October 14 initial cleanup of the park and the Muddy River. The next time, this group will be Theta Chis!



## Remembering Ted Bush '73

On August 19, Ted Bush '73 passed away from complications of leukemia. A memorial service was held on October 7 in Concord, Massachusetts.

**Russ Walker '72**, who was roommates with Ted in Fifth Large, shares: "I remember Ted with such fondness. He was a truly great person and a good man. Very humble and smart, and I rarely heard him complain. I don't believe anyone ever said a bad word about him. I am fortunate to have been his roommate and friend."

**David Campanella '76** writes: "He was a senior when I was a freshman, and for a good part of the year, he also slept in the fifth-floor ward with the freshmen. He had a distinctive long gait, and I can remember him crossing the Harvard Bridge with his long strides. He was a cool dude."

Ted grew up in Sidney, Ohio, where he graduated as the salutatorian of the Shawnee High School class of 1969. He was also honored with The Distinguished Alumni Award in 2009. He went on to complete both Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in chemical engineering at MIT.

After graduating, Ted embarked on a career in the energy field, finding better and more efficient ways of refining oil, processing coal, and safely handling related by-products and waste. Ted spent approximately five years with the MIT Fuels Laboratory and, for 20 years, was with Cabot Corporation, where he developed new technology and implemented it in their facilities worldwide, gaining a reputation as an innovative problem solver. He went on to work for Separation Technology, where he designed separators and oversaw the startup of the separators at power plants. Ted held four U.S. patents. Throughout his career, Ted traveled extensively and acquired many collectables from around the world.

Ted's abilities as thinker, creator, and fixer carried over to his personal life. He was a fine-scale modeler, sports car enthusiast, and avid reader of anything that piqued his curiosity. He could create or fix just about anything. Ted loved the beach and spent many summers vacationing on the Outer Banks with his family. Ted's interests went beyond the technical and scientific to include music and the arts.



*Ted Bush '73 (wearing hat) and Russ Walker '72 at Ted & Maria's wedding in Detroit.*

### *deceased*

**Stanley A. Tirrell '41**  
July 6, 2017

**Ellis P. Hanson '48**  
August 23, 2017

**Paul L. McGill '51**  
July 14, 2014

**Edward A. Ort '52**  
July 29, 2017

**Norman W. Kneissler '60**  
June 21, 2017

**Dean F. Smith '64**  
May 7, 2017

**Ted W. Bush '73**  
August 19, 2017

Above all, he devoted himself to his family and was dearly loved by them. He was also highly regarded by all who knew him: family, friends, and co-workers alike. His standard of loyalty and integrity was matched by few. Ted is survived by his wife of 43 years, Maria Croul-Bush; his son Timothy and wife, Alison; his son Trevor and wife, Parina. He is also survived by his granddaughters, Juliana, Emily, and Kasey, and grandsons, William and Jack. He also leaves a sister, Judy Beau de.

THETA CHI  
FRATERNITY

