



beta button

Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at MIT • Fall/Winter 2019

Renovation at 528 Gathers Steam—And We Need You!

Dear Brothers of Beta Chapter of Theta Chi:

Progress has been solid on the “Raise the Roof” campaign that began a little over a year ago. Our fundraising during the 2019 fiscal year hit the target, and a generous member of the Class of ’83 has stepped forward to match all donations in the current year, just as Jim Poitras ’63 did last year. Equally encouraging, the Alumni Corporation and actives have already successfully attacked many of the challenges laid out for the campaign. For example, all repairs and required safety conditions to the roof deck have been completed, and its use is now fully permitted by the City of Boston—for the first time in over a decade. Many of you may have forgotten how spectacular the scenery is atop our beloved Beacon Street waterside home. The photo here showcases the new roof deck furniture, which the actives purchased themselves, as well as the lighted railings which were installed by professionals.

Many of the challenges in this campaign were laid out by a system-wide professional facilities assessment effort which was performed in 2018 across all the MIT Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups (FSILGs). This assessment was funded jointly by MIT and the FSILG alumni corporations. Many FSILGs added their own items to the “to do” list, as we did for six items, one of which was getting the roof deck fully approved.

For the coming year, the major targets are:

- 1) a long overdue repointing of the exterior façade,
- 2) refurbishment of the third-floor bathroom,
- 3) repairs to all of the interior doors.

After nearly 100 years of housing Theta Chi Brothers, the house needs this kind of professional care, which complements a lot of good work by the actives in their recent work weeks.

To accomplish the big ticket items, we can only turn to you, our brothers. The target is to address all of the facilities issues within the coming three years, requiring about \$50K each year. We did it last year, so please help match the again goal this year! We have all been able to benefit from the generosity of those before us, and this is now our opportunity to “pay it forward” to the future generations of Theta Chi Brothers.

We have set up three ways of giving, listed on the enclosed giving form and at: <http://ox.mit.edu/alumni/#giving>. Questions? Ask us at thetachi@mit.edu.

Fraternally,
The Theta Chi Alumni Corporation

Our Roof Deck is Back, and Better Than Ever!

In 2013, Theta Chi and all other Boston-side fraternities at MIT lost access to their roof decks due to an injury at another house. The national attention to this incident caused Boston’s Inspectional Services Division to tighten roof deck usage, and each house was required to go through a start-from-

scratch permitting and inspection process. So, despite having a nearly-new roof deck—rebuilt during renovations in 2010—our undergraduate chapter was not able to use it for several years.

Following several years of prodding, both by us and MIT, a path forward finally presented itself. We retained an architect, MIT and Lambda Chi Alpha alum Paul Hajian, to help us through the process. He identified some additional hand railings that needed to be installed to meet updated safety codes. A big problem was getting the attention of contractors—this was a relatively small project in a booming Boston-area construction market.

In summer 2018, we obtained a building permit, and our contractor added the railings. But the Boston city inspector did not approve the work, asking for even more railings and a gate to be added. That additional work was completed this past spring, and we finally obtained our official Boston ISD Roof Deck Certificate. A final step was approval by the MIT AILG Building Committee.

To top it off, the undergraduate chapter completely sanded and re-stained the roof deck and replaced the furniture during their work week in August. It looks great, and is now set for the enjoyment of generations of brothers to come.

We hope you’ll come check it out in person at Alumni Weekend in April, or the Tech Reunion Open House in May!



MIT at night. Taken from the roof of 528.

Reunion Open House Recap

Theta Chi's Tech Reunion Open House was held on the afternoon of Commencement, in conjunction with MIT's official Reunion Weekend. As usual, it attracted a crop of reunion attendees, with big showings from the Class of 2009 (10-year reunion) and the Class of 1969 (50 years!). Graduating seniors and their families, along with a handful of local alumni, rounded out the event.

Occurring shortly after the re-opening of the roof deck (story on page 1), and tak-

ing place on a beautiful day, we took full advantage of the sunshine. The skylines of Boston and Cambridge made for an excellent setting to reconnect, catch up on each other's comings-and-goings, and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood.

This annual event has been happening for quite a few years, and we certainly plan to continue in the years to come. The next one is May 29, 2020 - see you then!



(L-R) Bill Magnuson '09, Amy Sanchez, David Sanchez '09, Matt Hillin '09, David Baumgartner '08, and Ben Gleitzman '09 at the Tech Reunion Open House.

Regional Meet-Ups Held Across the Country

This summer, the Alumni Corporation sponsored a series of regional meet ups in five places around the country, which were met with great enthusiasm in each location.

The first was held in New York City, where nine brothers gathered for merriment at Jack Doyle's Irish Pub.

Thanks to Waciuma Maina '10, David Baumgartner '08, Ross Runnion '04, Tejus Kothari '06, and Sean Faulk '11 for organizing these outings, and we hope to see more of you during next year's events!

Want to organize one in your area? Contact David Baumgartner at thetachi@mit.edu.



The Bay Area saw a great crowd at Arthur Mac's, with 18 attendees ranging from Class of '74 to the Class of 2019, and including a CME from 2010. Old connections were renewed, new connections were made, and we even squeezed in a Beta Chapter song or two. Good times were had by all! *Pictured at left (top):* Ross Runnion '04, Sam Weiss '10, Ade Esho '12, Kevin Wang '10, Jonathan Smith ('08 CME), Jeff Lin '13, Peter McKee '11, Ricky Ramirez '09, Steven Powelson '10, Jesse Gibson '18, Adrian Clarke '13, Steve Howland '11, and Chris Sweeney '18.

In Boston, the meet up was coordinated with a visit from Theta Chi's International Leadership and Foundation Chapter. Several dozen Theta Chi Alumni from chapters all over the country gathered at the Copley Square Marriott, including six Beta Chapter alums who followed the official event up with a visit to Pour House. *Pictured at left (second from top):* Theta Chi International President Tait Martin, David Campanella '76, Bob Ferrara '67, Ken Schumacher '12, Theta Chi CEO Michael Mayer, Axel Martinez '15, David Baumgartner '08, Mark Tompkins '02, Theta Chi Chief Development Officer Philip Thornton.

Chicago alums ranging from Class of '77 to Class of '17 met up at Happy Camper in Old Town on a beautiful summer day. *Pictured at right:* Gustavo Montalvo '17, Dave Wehrle '77, Tejus Kothari '06, and Sean Lowder '17.



Los Angeles-area alums gathered at Wurstküche in Venice for an exotic grilled sausage-fueled good time. A dozen brothers from '76 through '13 reunited and reminisced. *Pictured at right:* Leonard Tampons '13, Bradley Bolivar '94, Saul Tompkins '92, David Stampleman '86, Dustin Berkovitz '02, Michael Jura '03, Will Blackman '11, Scot Cook '92, Michael Corwin '76, Scott Barth '07, and Steve Ojeda '12.



Not pictured, but in attendance at the regional meet up in **New York City:** Toks Fifo '14, Vlad Kontsevoi '14, Bill Magnuson '09, Mario Scott '11, Waciuma Maina '10, Haldun Anil '15, Preston Thompson '14.



THE BETA CHAPTER OF THETA CHI AT MIT

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

RECOGNIZING DONATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1, 2018,
AND AUGUST 31, 2019

The Roof Deck

(\$2,500 or more)

Allen G. Burgess '57
James W. Poitras '63

The Ward

(\$1,000–\$2,499)

Keith F. Ashelin '83
Paul D. Bayless '78
Nathaniel R. Bogan '93
David R. Bold '58

David P. Dewan '65
Robert A. Frank '83
Philip W. Juang '00
David W. Kress Jr. '67

Steven P. Margossian '88
William F. Pritchard Jr. '78
Kenneth Schumacher '12

The Treasurer's Lounge

(\$500–\$999)

Robert T. Brady '62
David A. Campanella '76
Owen J. Clements '84
David R. Emero '90
Robert V. Ferrara '67

Patrick J. Hart '06
Sidney W. Hess '53
Matthew D.S. Hillin '09
William A. Jessiman '63
William R. Kincaid '49

Thomas A. Penn '68
Otto P. Robinson Jr. '60
Cheolsu Shin '73
David W. Summa '81
Pierre Swick '64

The Library

(\$100–\$499)

Gregory M. Agami '93
Richard C. Aquadro '52
David S. Baumgartner '08
Dustin Scott Berkovitz '02
William J. Brady '57
Richard S. Bryant '79
Ernesto D. Cabello '88
Terrance A. Chinn '65
Michael Dean Dellinger '88
Nelson R. Disco '57
James E. Hamblet '56

Joseph T. Hardy '04
William F. Johnston V '00
Kenneth E. Kreischer '76
Jason S. Ku '09
Mark A. Lehrer '80
Harold W. Linder '58
Jay A. Mackro '71
Gregory M. Mahowald '02
Richard J. Nixon '64
Robert J. Nunez '91
Robert B. Parente '58

Steven H. Rappaport '79
Duncan J. Rhodes '66
Mario Scott '11
Noel A. Spishak '75
W. Wayne Stargardt '74
Morris M. Tao '00
Kevin Wang '10
Jonathan B. Weisbuch '59
Andrew N. Weiss '85
Gregory J. Wilson '79
Bruce C. Zotter '65

The Cavern

(up to \$99)

Benjamin G. Dann Jr. '48
William C. Donelson Jr. '75

Christopher Thomas Laux '03
Sean P Lowder '17
Alvin Richman '57

Gary B. Rose '65
Allen F. Williams '74

Alumni News

Art H. Brownlow '55 sends an address update—you can now write to him at: 302 Brooksby Village Dr, Unit 209, Peabody, MA 01960, or ahbrownlow@aol.com.

"I retired from Moog, Inc, in 2014 after 47 years," says **Bob Brady '62**. "I'm now a semi-professional golfer, with limited ability. I live on a golf course in Palm Desert in the winter, a golf course in Jackson Hole in the spring and fall, and near a golf course in Fort Erie Canada (Buffalo) in the summer." If you'd like to play with Bob, let him know! Send him an email at bob-brady1@icloud.com.

Retired from American Airlines for over 12 years now, Brother **Bill Jessiman '63** still spends a few months doing contracting work with the airline. "Still married to my wife of 55 years, Betsy, and we're still living in Dallas, Texas, in the same house we've been in for 30 years now," he says as an update. "That's me—always looking for a lot of change in my life!" Because the two still have connections in Boston (two of their three kids and five of their six grandkids live in the area), Bill and Betsy still own some rental properties up there, including three units in Cambridge and three in Somerville. "Truthfully, I kind of like being a landlord, plus it gives Betsy and me a reason to go up to Boston every few months to check things out," he says. "We go up to Boston every Christmas, where we get to watch the grandkids open Christmas presents in five seconds

(continued on page 4)

Save The Dates!

ALUMNI WEEKEND

April 24-26, 2020

TECH REUNION OPEN HOUSE

May 29, 2020

our alumni send their news

A THETA CHI POEM. . .And A Story

The *Beta Button* very rarely features a poem, but here is a very thoughtful verse by one of our own brothers. This poem was written by Bruce Glabe '69, on the passing of Cheryl Jones, the wife of Harold Jones '67. Cheryl bravely fought cancer until the very end this past September. She was a much beloved by all—and a fantastic gardener, as noted in Bruce's poem.

Some of you may have appreciated her artistry if you attended the opening of Beta Chapter's 110th Anniversary back in October 2012. She and Harold hosted this event at their Manchester-by-the-Sea home, where her beautifully tended gardens framed a sweeping ocean-side view. Cheryl was also a charter member of a group of Theta Chi spouses who organized multiple social activities every year for their husbands and families. The signature event is the annual New Year's Eve gathering at the home of Val '70 and Susan Livada in Winchester, Massachusetts. This custom has been going for well over 30 years now, so you can get an idea of how close these women were.

Most of us never knew Bruce Glabe had such talent as a poet, though clearly he drew on something more in this case. Several years before, Bruce also lost his lovely wife Robin to cancer, and thus understood this great loss.

IN HER GARDEN

For Harold, Autumnal Equinox 2019

*Garden by-the-sea beach-
Plum and lavender and roses riot
gentle colors down the hues of tumbled slope to salt
marsh grasses brown and wheat at dawn's ebbing tide
horizon, a kettle brew for a winter hearth.*

The gardener is gone.

*Here had she labored,
tilling and edging,
choosing where to prune and where to deadhead,
tending seedlings as children, zucchini and tomato and rascal gourd,
skilled hands softly guiding, restoring with caress
a wayward vine, a faltered step.
Here had she joined with sisters passed
renewed in timeless present.
They shared covert essence like master cooks,
in blueberries discovered being,
not remembrance but living encounter, together
in the soil and in the sun.*

*Who are these women who nurtured green stems in spring?
They took us in, we the mathematical boys pretending
to glean the universe from equations drawn in chalk.
These daughters of Sophia knew more than ever we as men of quarks.*

*They curl about the cat in Schrodinger's box
and now live and die at once,
waves conjoining ocean hemispheres
by streams of love across the gulf.*

*They know the paradox is beyond our ken so
kiss us with the truth
in breath and lilt of laughter rustling air through
leaves evergreen, ambrosial blossoms
cut down late in summer laid cross an autumn alter.
Redeeming us, now, they ask that we redeem.
On the beach hear them sing in seeds
borne with the flood.*

Bruce D. Glabe

(continued from page 3)

each...The same gifts that took you half an hour to wrap. We also have another Christmas tradition, which we'll be renewing again this year: Every December 26, we have dinner with Diane and **Chet Riley '62** (Theta Chi, and a former American Airlines pilot) to catch up. This is a tradition we enjoy thoroughly. Always the same restaurant in Manchester, New Hampshire (halfway for both of us), and we always close the place up." Bill reminisces on this brotherhood, sharing: "Back in 1959, when I first came to MIT from a small town on the west coast, I wasn't sure I was going to like Boston (or MIT) at all. I'd never been back east, never ridden on a rapid transit line of any type, and while I loved sports, I had never been to a major league game of any kind. Then, after I had pledged Theta Chi, Chet took me under his wing. We took the MBTA down to North Station, went to a Celtics game, and later a Bruins game. I thought I died and gone to heaven. Chet and Diane are truly wonderful people." Want to get back in touch with "Willy"? Reach out to him by email at bill.jessiman@yahoo.com, or by postal mail at 4416 University Blvd, Dallas, TX, 75205.



deceased

*We regret to inform you of the
deaths of the following brothers:*

Robert J. Demartini '41
March 7, 2019

William J. Rapoport '46
April 22, 2019

Arnold B. Whitaker '46
July 19, 2018

Richard E. Waldt '50
June 9, 2016

James M. Dougherty '56
February 12, 2019

Robert Heitman '57
May 22, 2019

Stanley W. Zehr '63
June 6, 2018

beta button is published by the Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at MIT for its members and friends.

Photos, news items, and address changes may be sent to Alumni Records Office, Theta Chi Fraternity at MIT, P.O. Box 397253, Cambridge, MA 02139.

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