



# beta button

Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at MIT • Spring 2019

*Please Join Us!*

## REUNION OPEN HOUSE

**June 7, 2019, 3:00 p.m.**

The Reunion Open House is a wonderful event to bring together many of us – including current graduating seniors, their parents, Reunion-bound alums, local Boston-area alums, and several actives that will be living at 528 Beacon St. over the summer. All these folks are invited and encouraged to visit 528 Beacon on Friday, June 7, from 3:00 p.m. on.

This occasion affords returning alums a chance to relax and see the house. You can also see the significant renewal work that has already been accomplished by the undergrads during the last two works weeks, and other improvements initiated by the Alumni Corporation.

A cadre of alums will be on hand to congratulate and greet the parents of the graduating seniors, who always appreciate this respite after a long graduation ceremony. We think you will be pleased with the house, and especially pleased with the strength and diversity of the actives, who had another good rush last fall. You can expect lots of conversation and memories from various eras, as well ample snacks and refreshments.

We hope to see as many brothers and families as possible on the afternoon of Friday, June 7. If you are sure you are coming, please RSVP to [thetachi@mit.edu](mailto:thetachi@mit.edu). You can expect a warm welcome.



**THETA CHI**  
FRATERNITY

## President's Goal to Promote Brotherhood

My membership in Theta Chi has been the source of some of the most formative moments of my collegiate career so far, and I continue to feel that I have a duty owed to this organization. I am fortunate to have an excellent executive board, and other chairmen to assist and advise me as I lead the chapter this year.

As excited as I am to now be the president of Beta Chapter, I recognize that I do have some work ahead of me. Too many times have I seen things in the house that have inspired me to think, "someone should fix that...But not me." It is inevitable that this thought is going to develop at some point in an organization of generally equal experience, pressing outside time commitments, and a lacking sense of community. I cannot change the first two; the men joining will continue to be undergraduates doing their best to manage their school commitments, their friendships outside of the fraternity, their jobs/research/job search/graduate program search/etc, in addition to being part of a fraternity. I can, however, improve the last one, and that is the sole driving goal of my presidency.

By promoting a sense of brotherhood, members will be more inspired to step up and do something for the good of the fraternity because it will helping out their friends.

The first step is to remind everyone that this is supposed to be fun, and not just a set of requirements. I find myself fortunate that this was already starting to happen when I took over. The seniors started an initiative led by our former vice president, Damon Berman, over IAP to play board or card games at least once a week, and—unlike so many other IAP activities (or New Year Resolutions)—it has managed to continue into the month of February and the classes that come with it.

When we start building the community, the ball starts to roll, leading to events like freshman brother, Andrew Komo, inviting brothers to visit his booth and watch his presentation for the MIT 100K Competition because he knew that he had friends who would support him; he was excited to share what he was doing with the wider brotherhood.

While these are only brief examples, every week I witness something that brings our brothers closer together and makes me that much prouder to represent this fraternity. I look forward to seeing what new things will draw my attention in the upcoming weeks.

**Colt Hermes** '20  
Chapter President

## House Traditions of the '70s

Looking back at some of the reminiscing brothers wrote about for our 75th House Anniversary reminds me of some of the house traditions in the '70s. Brothers were thrown in the shower occasionally. There were two basic reasons that cause this unexpected dousing by the brothers:

birthdays and a dinner gone bad. Back in the '70s, the brothers cooked the meals, 19 a week. Breakfast and lunch were any easy way to earn a few bucks to go out or for weekend dates. But you better know what you were doing if you were one of the

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# 528 Renovation Has Begun—We Need You!

Dear Brothers of Beta Chapter:

As we noted in the last Beta Button, a system-wide facilities renewal effort across all of the MIT Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups (FSILGs) began last year, including a professional facilities assessment funded jointly by MIT and the FSILG alumni corporations. You will be happy to know that our house had a good—though hardly perfect—bill of health.

Our Alumni Corporation has an aggressive program to address everything noted in the assessment, plus a few more items needed to keep 528 Beacon a good place to live. Much of this work has already been completed, like repairing the front walk and installing a new flag pole. We are especially pleased to share that actives have done a terrific job tackling over a dozen issues during in their August and January work weeks.

Next on the list come the more expensive items—plumbing, updating safety code requirements, and re-pointing the exterior brickwork. This is where we need help from generous brothers like you.

The target is to address all of the facilities issues within the next four years, so we are looking for at least \$50K each year. A few brothers have come forward to provide matching gifts, and more are welcome! Because of this generosity, our goal of getting this list of necessary projects done is very achievable...So let's do it! We've all benefited from the generosity of those before us, so now is our opportunity to "pay it forward" to the future generations of Theta Chi Brothers.

Fraternally,

David Baumgartner '08  
Alumni Corp. President  
Axel Martinez '15, Alumni Corp. VP  
and Alumni House Manager  
Ken Schumacher '12  
Alumni Corp. Secretary  
David Campanella '76, Alumni Corp.  
Communications Chair  
Jason Ku '09, Alumni Corp. Treasurer  
Bob Ferrara '67, Alumni Corp. Director  
Jim Poitras '63, Alumni Corp. Director  
Ryan Andrews '10, Alumni Corp. Director

## Interested in donating?

*There are three ways that you can give to the Beta Chapter of Theta Chi. See the enclosed giving form included with this newsletter.*

*You can also give online at <http://ox.mit.edu/alumni/#giving>.*

## Questions?

*Ask us at [thetachi@mit.edu](mailto:thetachi@mit.edu).*

## Want to get involved?

*Are you interested in getting involved as an alumni brother of the Chapter?*

*We have a number of potential ways you could contribute, regardless of your geographical location:*

- Regional meet-up coordinator
- Social media coordinator
- Fundraising committee
- Direct advisor/mentor to undergraduates
- Corporation board member
- Beta Chapter Historian

*Have any other ideas or interests?*

*Let us know! [thetachi@mit.edu](mailto:thetachi@mit.edu)*

## Graduating Seniors Plan for Future

**Ryan Senanayake** will be taking an extra semester to finish his MEng thesis with the compiler research group. The thesis will be about extending TACO (tensor-compiler.org) to generate high-performance code for parallel computer architectures like GPUs.



*A group of 2019's graduating seniors.*

**Arjun Mithal** is graduating with a double major in Course 18 (mathematics) and Course 6-3 (computer science and engineering). This summer he will be starting a job as a trader with Citadel Securities in New York City. Says Arjun, "I am excited to be moving on to a new chapter of my life, although I will certainly miss MIT, Theta Chi, and the relationships I have built here. I am grateful for all the opportunities Theta Chi has provided me over the past four years, and I look forward to reuniting with brothers at future Alumni Weekends."

**Arturo Chavez** plans to move to San Francisco to work at McKinsey and Company.

"I'll be doing a two-month-long bike tour, unsupported, along the west coast—from Vancouver, Canada, to San Diego. Then, I'll be pursuing work in quantum computation

before eventually entering into a PhD program in physics," says **James Winkleblack**.

**Eric Koch** will graduate with degrees in 2A-6 and 21-RES (Russian and Eurasian studies). He has been a member of Army ROTC as an undergrad, and will commission as an armor officer after graduation.

**Damon Berman** graduates with a degree in biological engineering, and will be pursuing a PhD in bioengineering in the fall.

**Rawn Henry** will be interning at Nvidia with their AI Development Technology team, and will be returning to MIT to MEng. He will be working on a sparse tensor algebra compiler with the COMMIT group.

**Zachary Farr** will work for Susquehanna In-

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# What Was It Like? Beta of Theta Chi Recollections

## Rick Gander, Theta Chi 1961–1965 (with contributions from Cary Mock '64)

### Most Vivid Memory of Theta Chi:

One semester, everyone was complaining about the food at the house, and blamed Dave Sullivan, the steward. Dave got sick of the complaining, and one night had Angie, the cook, make only cream of wheat. She made a big pot of it. Then, as she had a strong feeling all hell was going to break loose, she went home. When dinner was served, everybody said, "*What the hell is this?*" proceeded to eat all the cream of wheat, and ask (demand) for more. There was no more, so everybody chased down Dave. After a major wrestling match, threw him in the shower.

There were many more memories of simply living with friends at 528. Playing Mille Borne, bridge, and sock basketball; IM hockey on nights it was so cold and the wind so strong that it felt like you were skating uphill half the game; lighting up the Green Building with OX; doing the Manchester Bounce to Ray Charles' "Hit the Road, Jack;" many long, late drives to Wellesley to beat curfew—then, the even longer drive home; cookouts on the front lawn; the sadness when Wiz, Russ, and Basketball left MIT for different reasons and places; *VooDoo* stunts, and the happy crew guys with their Harvard, Yale, and Navy shirts at the Sprints. What a great place to be young!

### The House: 1961–1965

Everyone slept in the Ward. There were no beds in the study rooms. Cavern and large rooms held three people (maybe four in the Cavern), small rooms: two. During my time, 3SF was made the resident tutor's room. There was no roof deck, but people went onto the roof in good weather. Fire escapes were installed for all floors, and climbing up the house became a sport (rappelling down from the roof, also).

In 1961–1962 Angie was the cook, and Frank Ford was the houseboy. Angie retired in about 1963, Frank became the cook, and Duke was hired as houseboy. They worked six day weeks, 12 hours a day, if I remember correctly, and Angie was paid \$45 per week, while Frank was paid \$37.50. They were both excellent cooks.

The brothers did most of the work during work week, prior to rush in the fall. Hell week

saw a lot of cleaning, but no real improvement projects. Some real construction work (EG rebuilding the third floor showers) was contracted out, though brothers were the ones to demo the old stalls and carry the debris downstairs to put it in DU's dumpster.

All meals—except Friday dinner and Sunday breakfast and supper—were served at the house. Breakfast was from about 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. There was always oatmeal and the main dishes were cooked to order. You told Frank what you wanted, and he called down the dumbwaiter to Angie. If the meal was, for example, fried eggs and hash, and you wanted extra hash but no eggs, Frank yelled, "Double hog, hold the hen!" Lunches were served in three seatings to fit peoples' school schedules. Dinner required wearing shirts with collars. Saturday and Sunday noon dinners were coat and tie occasions. Dates often came to both these meals. Brothers waited rotated waiting on tables.

On Friday nights and Sunday nights, there were hamburgers you could cook yourself in the kitchen, or you could go out. For breakfast, many people went to Miller's Drugstore lunch counter at the corner of Mass Ave and Beacon, or for a quick supper. Also, the Elliot Coffee Shop on Mass Ave was a popular stop. Sometimes, we'd run up to Elsie's, near Harvard Square, for roast beef specials to go.

Study/quiet hours: study hours were every night from sometime after dinner, on. Freshmen were required to be in their rooms at this time (breaks were allowed). Loud activities in the halls were discouraged. Freshmen had quizzes every Friday morning in one of the core required courses, and there were Saturday morning classes.

Dates and other women were only allowed above the second floor on Saturday night, and maybe Sunday afternoon. A tie on the door on Saturday night meant that your roommate and his date got there before you, and you were out of luck.

### Brothers and Their Activities

In this period, Theta Chis were active in the IFC (Rollwagon was president), many sports, *VooDoo* (the humor magazine), and many other things I don't remember, I'm sure. At least seven brothers were on the varsity

heavy and lightweight crews, which were at the top intercollegiate level at that time. Other varsity sports played by Theta Chis included soccer, ice hockey, swimming, basketball, and baseball. In the early '60s Theta Chi had one of the top intramural ice hockey teams for over three years, and fielded competitive touch football and basketball teams.

In 1962, four graduating Theta Chis (Rolly, Riley, Brady, and Roo) ran as a ticket for Class Officers.

### Social Aspects and Atmosphere

There was the dating of girls from nearby schools including BU, Chandler, and Chamberlain, as well as a scattering of Wellesley, Radcliffe, Simmons, and others, including Endicott one year. All girls schools had rules about when the girls had to be back, or where they were allowed to sign out for the night. The race to return to distant campuses (or even ones nearby) after a big party could be really scary, but I never heard of anyone having an accident.

There were probably 10-15 brothers with cars; most of the cars were pretty old, and well-used. Some were real junkers that needed things like brake fluid every trip. At least one car was put on top of the DU dumpster for disposal. The cars did not have names, but did have personalities. Makes of cars included Hillman-Minx, DKW, Olds, Buick, Ford, Pontiac. Many were either "hand-me-downs" from parents, or purchased for a couple hundred bucks.

Most house parties had records rather than live music and dancing. Bands were hired periodically. For big weekends (Junior Prom, Winter Weekend) there was usually a fancy dinner at the house the night of the formal dance. Brothers cooked and served the meals. There was a choice of steak or lobster.

Popular restaurants for groups of brothers included Kens at Copley (steak tips and blueberry blintzes), Newbury Steak House, The European in the North End, and somewhere in Chinatown for very late nights.

For dates, there was a nice place in the Somerset Hotel on Comm Ave.

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# What Was It Like? Beta of Theta Chi Recollections

## Dave Summa, Theta Chi 1977–1981

### Most Vivid Memory

The “End of the World” party, April 1979. The situation was grim: Three Mile Island had just happened, China had invaded Vietnam and a war was happening, the Massachusetts drinking age was going up to 20 from 18, and the US Embassy in Iran had been sacked and hostages taken

So, we decided to have a total low-moon blowout. It was a costume party, and Doug Wegner came as the Grim Reaper. Chris Zirps made posters, and put them up all around the house. All the Armageddon humor we wanted, as only Zirpo-witz could deliver. We invited Nu Delta (they, as a new house, totally geeked out) and they paid for half (just about all of it as it turned out). We had a punk band. There must have been 200 people there all night long. It was the very best party I think we had.

### The House: 1977–1981

The Cavern was a double, with Terry’s head painted in psychedelic Hendrick’s-style. No one remembers who painted it, or how. The third floor had a drink machine that worked, and one year, Drew Blakeman used the hall closet overlooking the front stairwell as his room (he actually chose it in the draft). One year Dennis McGrail decorated 3SF by stapling opened-up black plastic garbage bags to the entire wall and ceiling. Other than that, the floor was always a 3LF, 3SF, 3LR and 3SR. All larges had two beds, two brothers, and a whippie (our pet name for the pledges), desk and dresser. Smalls had one brother, and one freshman desk/dresser.

Fourth floor was the same. Center hall was open and had the treasurer’s office. It was also the location of the phone. There were only two phones in the house—the first floor and fourth floor. One year, Sandy Wilgus put a phone in 4LF and it caused a revolution—everyone had to have one!

Fifth floor had 5S, 5L, and 5M, which had two brothers, and really sucked as far as rooms went (I was there one year, with Jim Flatt). The Ward was not heated, there were three or four open vents to the roof (the spinning, squeaking kind). The Ward windows didn’t shut all the way, and the wood trim was badly weather damaged. It had

red bunks, and alarm clocks went off starting at 5:30 a.m. for lightweight crew, all the way to 10:00 a.m. for slackers. It seemed that alarms were always going off. The parapets were used, especially in warm weather. The roof was a sometimes driving range for Ned Emerson, Doug Wegner, and others aiming at the Charles, but often landing short on Storrow Drive. *Doh!*

The third floor head had three showers and one head behind a door. The fourth floor head had two heads open to the room. I always hated that head...

There were apartments the house rented. They moved around a bit, but one was on the ground floor, south side of Marlborough. Another was over Marlborough Market and looked down across the street at Fathers (aka “Dad’s”). The apartment had three or four brothers each.

There was no outside staff, no outside help, no outside anything. Even the corporation was dormant at that time.

The house manger was often a two-person position and was always a serious job. We always had competent housemen. The summer clean up was largely cosmetic, lasting from Sunday through the Friday noon start of rush. Several tons of paint were added to the house over my years there. Usually, there was one special project during summer clean-up that was structural work.

In January, the freshman workweek occurred before the start of the second term. It was heavy, long days for the pledges. Usually there was one large project that they did, and housemen and the occasional real craftsmen might join in. Rebuilding the bar one year, stripping all the floors and re-varnishing the first and second floor, putting in a bike room in the basement, and, one year, we did a lot of work on the sub-basement, are all examples of these projects.

Monday through Thursday, breakfast, lunch, and dinner were prepared by brothers, hired by the EmSup (Employee Supervisor) Cooks were paid like McDonald’s, say \$5 for a breakfast, \$7 for lunch, and \$10 for dinner. Order were called down for breakfast by the waiter (also a brother, but not a paid job). Lunches were served at noon, and ended promptly

at 1:00. PB&J were always on the sideboard. Dinners were served at 6:00 p.m. sharp (or else!), and again at 7:30 for the jocks. The steward (a paid job, and elected each term) made menus, ordered food, and put it away. The steward also went through the fridge and cupboard to throw out the rotten stuff. It was a pretty thankless job, so Jim Flatt had to do it for five of his eight terms. He introduced chef salad to the house, and was only showered once for it! Dinners always started with the head of the table calling on someone to say grace, which they dutifully did: “Grace.” One time, Gary Smith sang grace to a stunned audience, and received a well-deserved standing ovation.

Friday had no dinner. Sunday had a large meal at noon and no dinner. This was the big meal—real “meat and potatoes” stuff.

When not being served at the house, pizza from Crossroads was popular, right near Mass Ave on Beacon. Also, there were lots of places in Kenmore Square. Guys usually rotated places. One big place was Father’s on Sunday; they had 10-cent hot dogs, and among other specials. We really loved that place. Dad’s got the very first arcade video games came in—Pong, Asteroids, Pac Man, and a football game that was a huge hit. Lots of guys would go to the North End, or Commonwealth Pier (the No Name always drew a group on Friday nights).

We initiated Wednesday night ice cream parties as a study break at 10:00 p.m. Steve’s Ice Cream was huge (Cambridge), as was Emack & Bolio’s on Newberry Street.

There was only one house rule that I remember: Do not hit on the girlfriend of a brother, unless you cleared it with him first. No exceptions. There were no quiet hours, and someone was always pulling an all-nighter.

### Brothers and Their Activities

Rowing was popular—lots of heavyweights, and lightweights, squash/tennis drew several, and hockey had two. One or two were in track, sailing etc. Everyone played intramurals. It was mandatory to play hockey, and there was always a good basketball team and football team.

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## Alumni Send Their News and Notes

"Still breathing," reports **Bill Freeman '51**. He can be reached at mcfwrf@aol.com or 60 Morehouse Rd., Easton, CT 06612.

Retired engineer **Bob Parente '58** makes his home at 2715 Angelo Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90077. Catch up with him at rbparente@sbcglobal.net.

"Our island of Hawaii is trying to explode," writes **Will Johnson '59**, "so we have moved our winter digs to Lakewood Ranch, Florida. Otherwise, all is well." Will's new address is 12046 Thornhill Court, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202. For a more comprehensive update, email him at ruthandwil@aol.com.

We're sorry to report that **Nelson Disco's** ('57) wife, Carolyn, passed away in early September last year. "Living the life of a retired country gentleman in New Hampshire," he writes. Reach him at ndisco3@yahoo.com or 10 Underwood Lane, Merrimack, NH 03054.

"Life goes on," reports **Jonathan Weisbuch '59**. "Mary Ellen and I spend several summer months in Canaan, New York (20 minutes from Tanglewood, Massachusetts), and the rest of the year at home in Phoenix—"but it's a dry heat." Jonathan was the county health officer for nine years, retiring in 2005. "I still teach some," he adds, "but mostly just grouse over the current political imbroglio." After MIT Jonathan went to med school at NYU and then did an internship

in Seattle. After that it was the U.S. Navy on a Polaris submarine "(MIT background was very handy)", then Harvard School of Public Health and the University of Kentucky for a preventive medicine residency, then a professorship at BU. Following that he served as the Massachusetts director of correctional health, then North Dakota's state health officer "(drawing on all my Course I expertise in sanitation and environment)." A stint as Wyoming state health officer and another as medical director of the Los Angeles County Health Department preceded his move to Phoenix, where he eventually retired. Jonathan adds that he has "two great sons and a passel of grandchildren (9)." When he wrote late last year, he was hoping to be back for his 60th reunion. "How do we get to be this old? Luck, I guess. Hope to see you all next spring." Get back in touch at jbwaisbuch@mac.com or 2210 Encanto Dr., NW, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

**Chet Riley '62** reports a new address: 31 Chestnut St., Apt. 411, Exeter, NH 03833. Email him at criley@alum.mit.edu.

"Alive and well in the Green Mountains of Vermont," announces **Pierre Swick '64**. Pierre's post-airline pilot life includes playing in and managing a 17-piece "big swing band" and volunteering at Old Spokes Home, which restores donated bikes in Burlington. We don't have an email address

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## Seniors Plan Future

*(continued from page 2)*

ternational Group in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and be a trader on their sports desk.

Within his aerospace engineering degree, **Carlos Cuevas** will have concentrated in electrical engineering and computer science, and also have completed a music minor. Upon leaving MIT, he will be working full-time in the aerospace industry, with hopes to one day assist or personally advancing the human race to Mars.

## Rick Gander 1961–1965

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What kinds of recreational activities did brothers engage in together, away from the house? Skiing was big for a group of brothers who actually were on the ski patrol at some place in New Hampshire or Vermont.

### The World

The biggest single event of this time period was surely the assassination of JFK.

The Vietnam War had barely begun to make much of a public splash by 1965 (college deferments, and even grad school, were still automatic at that time).

The cold war was still on, and the Cuban Missile Crisis was a major event.

Thinking back, it seems to me that aspects of the early '60s were much more akin to the world of the '50s than those of the latter '60s that were on the horizon.

## David Summa 1977–1981

*(continued from page 4)*

### Social Aspects and Atmosphere

Brothers found dates and pinmates at Simmons, as well as BU, (especially the dorms right around from the house, and on Bay, State). In 1979–80 we did a big road trip to Mount Holyoke, and connected with a dorm there (1859 and Rockefeller). There were some great parties, and Helderich met his wife there. We did a party with Theta Chi from ZooMass too. That was really crazy. Several guys dated women there, taking the Peter Pan bus there for dates!

For transportation, there was PC the Blue

Max, and the Mass Ave bus was 25-cents, but no one took it except in rain. Bikes were few and far between until 1981, when we built the bike room. The T was pretty cheap, I think it was 50 cents anywhere.

Once or twice a term, there was a band party. The rest of the time it was a DJ. I remember that Theta Chi had the highest GPA on campus, and nearly the highest per-person social budget. We made money on parties, and spent it all back! Ned Emerson and I were social chairmen for four of eight terms together. Notable events include the "Don't Kill the Dog," "End of the World," and the Fresh-Junior vs. Soph-Senior challenge parties.

The Figi Island party was always awesome—they hosted that every other year. My God, what a Bacchanalia! They bussed us to some place, which was totally island-decked out.

There weren't many special events. We had a semi-formal once each year. Dates in dresses, guys in ties. That was about it for formals. When Disco was popular, Narcissus was big in Kenmore. But it was always Father's that was most popular.

### Looking Back

The house worked hard, and played harder. The sense of humor was always there, and was always a bit twisted. I still think I have never laughed as much or as often.

# our alumni send their news

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to pass along, unfortunately, but his postal address is 4604 Battleground Rd., Unit 4, Waitsfield, VT 05673.

**Mark Falber '75** reports the following new postal address: 325 S. 4th St., Apt. 20, Terre Haute, IN 47807. He muses, "I never received my bachelor's degree, but I still loosely keep up with what's going on in the world of physics. I wonder if humans will eventually develop a complete 'theory of everything,' which would include all of the fundamental and essential physical laws—and which could accurately, precisely, and completely describe all physical phenomena." No email address for Mark either; if anyone knows it, please share!

"I'm doing remarkably well other than a bad back from being foolish 35 years ago," writes **Frank Ruiz '76**. He shared the following from a trip he made last summer. "My mother passed away last year at age 89. My wife, Rauny, and I flew to Washington, DC, in early August and interred her cremated remains in the Columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery. She is in the same niche with my father, who passed away in 1986, and my/our brother Victor, who was a freshman Theta Chi pledge when he died in December 1974. We drove on to NYC and visited with **Bob Holzwasser '76** in Manhattan. It was a hot and sticky day, so we spent the afternoon talking as we toured the Museum of Natural History on the upper west side. We then traveled to New Jersey to visit old friends. It is frightening how quickly the seven years went by since I had seen them all." The vice president of research and de-

velopment with Heritage Plastics, Inc., Frank can be reached at frankruiz@att.net or 2108 Beachview Dr., Flower Mound, TX 75022.

We thank **David MacKay '84** for sending in the following robust update: "As this is my first newsletter submission, forgive the choppy style as I try to stick to the facts. Retired after 20 years in the Air Force with a focus on weapon systems acquisition (little to do with the chemical engineering degree). Stationed at Wright-Patterson AFB (Ohio), Edwards AFB (California), Los Angeles AFB, Huntsville (Alabama), and Peterson AFB (Colorado). Been a defense contractor in Colorado ever since—SI International/SERCO, Northrop-Grumman, and now LinQuest—with only two months on unemployment. Focus has been leveraging the Unified Modeling Language to do enterprise architecture using the DoD architecture framework (nothing to do with chemical engineering). In six more years, I will have been retired longer than I was on active duty, and maybe then I'll retire for good. Got an MS in mechanical engineering from Colorado State University. Married 27 years with four adult offspring. Wife and daughter are clinical lab scientists with Children's Hospital, one son works for Walmart, and two youngest sons are at Kansas University. We follow KU basketball televised home games to catch a glimpse of our pep band bass player, who is in his senior year in computer engineering. Serve on church mission team, usher monthly, occasionally lead our Bible study group, and was a past member and chair of the finance committee. We're in our second year in this house (our second) since settling in Colorado Springs in August 2000. Ran into Eric Weaver '83 once while I was on active duty, and I occasionally see my former cavern roommate and Ward bunk-mate Mike Combs '84 whenever his wife drags him out on her visits to see family in Colorado. Saddened at the loss of Phil Kauffman '81 and Steve Carroll '84 (our pledge captain) in 1995." In closing he writes, "I'm not on social media, so if you're looking to renew contact or just a place to stay during spring skiing season, you'll have to contact me the old-fashioned way at home by phone (719-465-2332) or email (dsmackay@alum.mit.edu). Good luck on the housing projects." David lives at 4236 New Santa Fe Trail, Colorado Springs, CO 80924.

## House Traditions of the '70s

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dinner cooks. We had several brothers from North Carolina, one was the steward, Jim Kirksey '74. Two others were excellent cooks, JR Mills '74 and Wayne Stargardt '74. We were introduced to real down-home southern cooking—stuffed pork chops were a favorite among the brothers. It was new cuisine for a mid-western boy like myself.

One Wednesday evening, as Brian Wellendorf '77, Joe Healey '77, and I were coming down Beacon after crew practice and heading home for the late dinner, Mark Keough '76 busted out the front door in front of us with several brothers chasing him. It was then that we remembered he was the Wednesday night cook. I believe he got away, and we probably had peanut butter sandwiches or cereal for dinner that night... The usual standbys when things went wrong in the kitchen.

Dave Summa '81 has asked about some of the art work which was done by Mike Sayers '75. Mike was in 5LR with William Donelson '75 and their walls housed some blacklight images. I believe Mike also entertained us by doing the "party guy" routine, a laid back hipster rocking out is the best way to describe it, on the second floor jukebox. Mike also made party flyers. The guts of the jukebox were salvaged from a fire at the Crossroads, it was said. Russ Walker '72 was the guy who repaired it and kept it running. Another familiar image was the "House Mother," a painting of a nude women lounging on a sofa. About 10 years ago, a hole was popped into the canvas, and it has since disappeared.

Dress code was more relaxed in the '70s. After the first week of freshman classes it was jeans and T-shirts. We saved our nice pants and collared shirts for the weekend parties, whether at the house or BU, Simmons, Wellesley, or the occasional road trip (like eight guys in a Rambler sedan to Wheaton College). The only time we wore a jacket and tie was for the annual individual headshot for the year's portrait.

**David Campanella '76**

## deceased

**William A. Pearson**

**Dirk A. Plummer '52**  
July 18, 2018

**Henry E. Moesta '58**  
January 21, 2018

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

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