



beta button

Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at MIT • Fall 2021

WHAT WERE YOU DOING 50 YEARS AGO?

As we approach 100 years living in the house let's look back halfway. This summer when we were cleaning the house in preparation for the undergraduates coming back we found a group photo that was used as a rush poster in the late '70s and '80s, featuring the '71 intramural hockey championship team. Bobby Orr with a feed from Derick Sanderson won the Stanley Cup with that iconic overtime "flying" shot in 1970. While MIT was known to have the most varsity teams of any college, back then they didn't have a football team, not even a club team. Football was king among the fraternities; some were known as jock houses and rushed guys for their teams. We were the hockey house! Just about everyone was on a team, though some of us had never seen snow before MIT, let alone know how to skate. We had teams in all divisions. As a midwestern kid, I knew sledding and throwing snowballs and my highlight was making it to the B team my senior year.

We are grateful to **Val Livada '70** for sending in three photos of the team on the ice at the outdoor rink. The majority of the fans just stood along the boards. At one of the varsity games a player flipped the puck a little too high against the boards to get around a defender and knocked a spectator over. It was like knocking a stuffed animal off the shelf at a carnival booth. Val writes: "Great to hear from you! This brings back lots of memories. As best as I can remember in the photo: Umbrella is Al Williams and after Billings is Joe Runkle."

Al Williams '74 adds: "That photo certainly DID bring back some ancient memories! I'm the fellow in the front-left most position, holding the umbrella. Rick McCain is in the far upper left, and I believe the next person over is Bob Miegler. That was certainly a fun time. If I remember correctly, TC had three different hockey teams that year: A, B, and C leagues. The C league had the (notorious) Mason-Dixon line, all from SOUTH of that line. Then, MIT had only an outdoor hockey rink. At one of the C league games, there was a stiff breeze blowing down the length of the rink, and the refs got p—d off at the Mason-Dixon line for taking

(continued on page two)



2022: A YEAR TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS AT 528 BEACON STREET!

Next year, 2022, is a very significant one in Theta Chi history. Not only has Beta Chapter called 528 Beacon Street home for 100 years now, but 2022 marks the 120th year since the installation of Beta Chapter as a fraternity at MIT on December 3, 1902.

The chapter was unhoused for the first several years, but in 1909 the brothers found some lodgings on Cumberland Street in Boston. Cumberland runs off Huntington Avenue not far from Copley Square where MIT was then established. Then from 1912 through 1922, the chapter moved between three different Boston locations near Kenmore Square. During this period, MIT was moving to newly filled land on the Cambridge side of the Charles River.

MIT's move to Cambridge in 1916 made the 500 block of Beacon Street a very inviting location for fraternities, which up to then provided much of MIT's near-campus housing. Delta Upsilon (now Theta Tau) at 526 Beacon moved into the block in 1917, followed by Sigma Chi two years later. Theta Chi's next-door

neighbor, Phi Kappa Sigma, also arrived in that consequential year of 1922.

In 1922 our chapter made the very fateful and fortunate decision to purchase what was then an elegant single-family home at 528 Beacon Street. As every brother knows, this location is very convenient to MIT's campus, except when the wind howls down the Charles River basin. The expanse of the river also provided an often-comforting distance for so many of us when unwinding from MIT's pressures.

The Theta Chi Alumni Corporation and undergraduate leadership are just starting to discuss a 2022 celebration of our chapter's 100 years at 528 Beacon. There is plenty of room for participation from alumni, both local and elsewhere. If you are interested, please contact Chapter Advisor **Ryan M Andrews '10** (randrews@alum.mit.edu), who will be spearheading the party planning committee. All brothers will be kept posted as plans develop, and we hope to welcome all alumni back to MIT and 528 Beacon once again to celebrate this milestone.

– Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Alumni Corporation

KEEP THE "RAISE THE ROOF" RENOVATION CAMPAIGN ON TRACK!

In 2018, Theta Chi kicked off a "Raise the Roof" renovation campaign to address a number of issues identified by an FSILG-wide professional facilities assessment, plus a few "to-do" items of our own. Under the leadership of our alumnus house manager, **David Baumgartner '08**, we have been able to knock most of these items off our list, including a complete repointing and repair of the exterior brick facade, renovating the third-floor bathroom, and repaving the front entryway.

However, there is still work to do to make our 120-plus-year-old house the best it can be. This year, we plan on refurbishing most of the house's windows, upgrading its doors and egresses, and looking into replacing our aging fire sprinkler system.

For the last four years, we have met or even exceeded our goals for the "Raise the Roof Campaign," both in terms of what has been accomplished and the generosity of you, our brothers. We thank our four matching donors in particular (see below), who have stepped up to double any gifts over \$250. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude. For 2021, we are thrilled that **Ricky Ramirez '09** has agreed to be the matching donor, making him the youngest ever in our chapter's history. Thank you, Ricky!

THANKS to our "Raise the Roof" Matching Donors

Year 5 – 2022	IS THIS YOU??
Year 4 – 2021	Ricky Ramirez '09
Year 3 – 2020	Chip Hance '80
Year 2 – 2019	Anonymous '83
Year 1 – 2018	Jim Poitras '63

If you would like to consider joining this illustrious company by matching 2022 donations over \$250, please get started by contacting our Alumni Corporation Treasurer **Bob Ferrara '67** at bobferrara@alum.mit.edu or any other member of the current Alumni Corporation.

We all benefitted 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. There are three ways to give listed on ox.mit.edu/alumni/#giving. We hope that you can make a donation in 2021 to keep our brotherhood and our chapter house as strong as it ever was.

– Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Alumni Corporation

CURRENT CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Mario Peraza '22

VICE PRESIDENT
Julian Hamelberg '24

TREASURER
Arman Dave '23

VICE PRESIDENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY
Conrad Oakes '23

SECRETARY
Erik Thompson '22

MARSHAL
Cameron Hilman '23

RUSH CHAIRS
Arman Dave '23
Andrew Komo '22
Roberto Sarabia '22

HOUSE MANAGER
Nick Schultz '24

BROTHERHOOD
Albert Garcia '22
Kevin Awoufack '23
Spencer Yandrofski '24

WORK WEEK
Spencer Yandrofski '24
Erik Thompson '22
Cameron Hilman '23

STEWARD
Kevin Awoufack '23

SCHOLARSHIP
Leon Fan '24

ALUMNI
Cameron Hilman '23

CHAPLAIN
Roberto Sarabia '22

COMMUNITY SERVICE
Lucas Marden '24

50 YEARS AGO (CONTINUED)

too long to get back up the rink to a faceoff because the wind was blowing in their faces. They didn't make much headway against it in their three-point stance: skate-skate-stick!"

Rick McCain '73 writes: "I'm pretty sure my number was 18. I actually went on to play JV hockey. I even played amateur hockey for a while in Phoenix in the late 1970s. When we moved to Richland in 1986, I was one of the people to put up money for the first season of the Tri-City Americans (so they would build a rink). I played hockey with the Tri-City Amateur Hockey Association for years and coached Mitey Mite hockey when my son was little. Next to T-ball, that was the most fun I ever had. In a place like the TriCities, you can always find a team when you can say 'I played hockey while I was in college in Boston!'"

"It's great to hear from you and I hope that all is well at your end," says **George Kenney '74**. "Yes, I do remember what I was doing 50 years ago, but what did I have for breakfast?"

"This picture was taken on the dumpster in the rear parking lot at 528 in the spring of '71 after we won the A-league hockey championship. You can see me in the front row holding the trophy. With Bobby Orr playing in Boston at the time, hockey was an obsession at the house, as you know. My nickname on the ice for OX was the "Flying Wedge." I had played hockey at home in Nova Scotia in the town leagues with real full-sized men. This meant that to survive I needed to play with an attitude that far outsized my size. J Ergo, my nickname. Sorry, I don't remember who we played for the championship."

"We had a solid team with Val Livada in the net, who's unfortunately not in the picture. I still see Val on a regular basis. We are both founding principals of Great Dome Associates. I played varsity as well with "Fly" (Jimmy Alward) and Norm (Sturtevant). Varsity was fun, but not as much fun and excitement as playing for the house."

It was great to see so many of our brothers lace them up and try their luck on the ice. As for you

newbies and never-ers, I really admired your courage but questioned your judgment and sense of self-preservation. My favorite was Sam Stroud (a lordly upper classman) who was tough, fearless, and you could drive an MBTA bus between his legs on the ice. Yes, he was a real wide-tracker, but loved to play.

BTW, the guy on the lower far right is 'the mystery man.' My best guess is that it's John Mills based on his height, narrow build, and lack of socks. My big brother is indeed Tom Lydon, and my little brother is Kenneth "Ken" Kreisler '76. (Ken and Al Lewis would become the goalies after Val.)

– All the best, **Buzz**"

Wayne Stargardt '74 says, "I enjoyed this memory-jogging exchange (and I only remember the times being great!). Contrary to Al William's recollection, I thought there were four house intramural teams in those days. And as one of the Southerners who had never been on skates before, I remember playing on the D team. Our approach to skating, however, was exactly the three-point stance that Al described." Wayne also helped identify several in the photo.

"I finally retired at the end of last year, and my wife and I reside in the great, free country state of Texas. Debbie and I visited Boston last May, where we got together with Buzz and Nancy Kenney on the MIT campus and recalled some of those great times. Thanks to all of you for the great experiences and the memories they created!"

David Krackhardt '72 adds, "Well, you are all correct: this brings back many fond memories. One question: How did I get on this list? I'm not even in the picture, although I was a third-string wing on the C squad, as I recall. I was definitely one of the three-point players. Indeed, I was good for one shot per shift. By the time I got back up off the ice after each shot, my shift was over. I am pretty sure Richard McLaughry is the one in the picture peering over Intravia's left shoulder."





CURRENT CHAPTER OFFICERS

TECH CHAIR

Julian Hamelberg '24

SOCIAL CHAIRS

Cameron Hilman '23

Andre Hamelberg '24

PUBLIC RELATIONS/ SOCIAL MEDIA

Andre Hamelberg '24

TECH CHAIR

Julian Hamelberg '24

RISK MANAGER

Conrad Oakes '23

Jackson Zhang '24

TECH CHAIR

Jose Martinez '24

HISTORIAN

Mario Peraza '22



(Left to Right)

Front row: Al Williams, Gary Caldwell, Dr. Nick De Cristofaro, Bill Billings, Joe Runkle, Steve Dawson, #13 Charlie Shin, George Kenney "Buzy", Rene Haas, Paul Bugeau, Dennis Intravia, Rich McLaughry, Robert Sherrill.

Middle row: #24 Lt. Col. Danny Bocek, Jim Kirksey.

Top row: #18 Rick McCain, #11 Bob Miegel, Dr. Rich Freeland, Russ Walker, Dr. John Nabelek, Wes Grandmont, Frank Sauk, Ted Bush, Rich Cramer.

2021 PLEDGE CLASS

DANKWA BUCKLE

Yeooo, I'm Dankwa and I'm a course 16 head and in the class of 2024. I'm black.



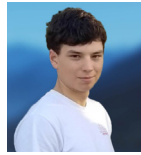
ALEXANDER EDWARDS

Alex is in the class of 2025, is studying course 22, and is part of Army ROTC as well as the MIT football team.



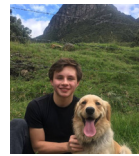
EVAN SEEYAVE

My name is Evan and I'm a sophomore studying course 6, and I rock climb and play Spikeball.



ANDRES SEVILLA

Andres Sevilla is a sophomore studying computer science and is interested in software development, animation, and digital music production.



JUAN ESTEBAN REYES

I'm Juan, a class of 2025 student looking forward to majoring in pure math. I enjoy soccer, cooking, and hiking.



GILDARDO BANUELOS

My name is Gildardo Banuelos, I'm majoring in 6-3, and I'm in the class of 2024. When not playing poker or chess, I can be found in a climbing gym or playing pickup soccer.

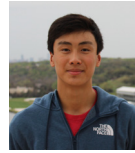
BRIAN ROBINSON

I am an aerospace engineering major in the class of 2025 who enjoys running.



BRIAN LI

My name is Brian Li and I'm in the class of 2024 and studying 6-2 with a minor in 2. I'm on the MIT swim and dive team as well as Rocket Team.



RAJ MEHTA

I am a sophomore majoring in business analytics and interested in dance, music, and tennis.



AXEL ADJEI

I like to juggle, am majoring in math and computer science and am graduating in 2025.



AHMED TIJAN DIONGUE

I'm from Dallas, Texas, and therefore make sure everyone knows I am Dallas Cowboys fan.



JADEN THOMAS-MARKARIAN

My name is Jaden. I'm majoring in mathematics (18), and I'm in the class of 2025.

STEVEN MARQUEZ

I'm Steven, a 2023 18C major from California. I'm a 6'6" high jumper on the track team and a black belt in karate.



DERRICK LIANG

Derrick is a sophomore majoring in computer science major interested in music and breaking.



WHO'S IN THE HOUSE AND WHAT TO EXPECT?

Our chapter currently has 19 active brothers living in the house and one living on campus. The process of moving back into the house, after no one was able to live in it for over a year, required a large transition period. The seven brothers who had lived in the house pre-COVID took it upon themselves to ensure the traditions and functions of the house remained in place. To start, these brothers gave everyone a house tour, pointing out key places in the house allowing people to memorize names and other important facts along the way. One of our first house meetings was dedicated to providing information on officers who had roles throughout the house or regarding house upkeep.

Once we were through updating all of our members on more of the logistical things that needed to be known about the house, we worked on

catching everyone up on the traditions we uphold. Due to the time constraints, we decided to hold a one-night ceremony where we ran through essentially 4 days' worth of traditions. We wanted to ensure all the new members got to experience things that would have normally been done in person before recruiting a new pledge class. While this night was exhausting, we believe it was extremely successful and provided a well-needed reminder of the traditions we try to uphold. Since then, everyone has come accustomed to the house, and we have all been having a great time catching up on everything we missed out on over the past couple of years.

– Mario Peraza '22

AN ALUMNI CLEANUP DAY

After the pandemic forced everyone off of campus in short order in March 2020, 528 Beacon Street sat mostly un-occupied for 17 months. Between the quick move-out, contractor work, and relatively little attention, the house needed some attention in order to prepare for August 2021 move-in by the undergrads - a majority of whom haven't lived in the house before.

On July 10, 2021, a group of 8 alumni volunteered to do a high-level cleaning and organizing of the house. Activities included moving air conditioners and desks out of bathrooms, throwing away a lot of forgotten food, putting couches and other furniture back where they belong, wiping down a thick layer of accumulated dust, and other general clean-up.

– David Baumgartner '08

(Right) John Busche, David Baumgartner '08, Phil Rogoz '10, Ryan Andrews '10, Mario Scott '12, David Campanella '76, Bob Ferrara '67, Ken Schumacher '12



WORK WEEK UPDATE

Work week this year was a success considering the small number of brothers available to participate. The focus was on making the house livable again, as many previous brothers' belongings and garbage had accumulated from pre-COVID times, and we were able to fill countless numbers of trash bags as well as a large rented dumpster. Brothers deep-cleaned carpets, bathrooms, hardwoods, and walls all while discovering the true "magic" in those Mr. Clean magic erasers. A few took on side projects such as repairing roof deck boards, fixing toilets, painting, and replacing banisters and lightbulbs.

Overall, the house was in great shape by the end of the week. A few projects that are currently ongoing are fixing the kitchen garbage disposal, fourth head urinal, and having the windows on the first and second floor repaired so they can no longer act like a guillotine. For future work weeks, I suggest we spend time replacing all roof deck boards and sealing them properly as well as painting the common spaces and individual rooms, as many of the walls are in rough shape.

– Mario Peraza '22

Alvin Richman '57 writes: "Thank you for my copy of the 1956 Composite Restoration Project. Seeing the members of my 1957 graduating class brings back wonderful memories of house corporation activities. We were all much younger than perhaps wiser in some respects."

Ann and Robert T. Brady '62 are now settled in a golf community, the Smoke River Sporting Club, in Jackson Hole. "This is home now, although we spend most of the winter on another golf course, The Reserve, in Palm Desert, California. So we play a lot of golf. I'm still a director of the M&T Bank and the Astronics Corp. They haven't noticed how old I am. We spent as much time as we can with our kids, grandkids, and people that we really like. We aren't very religious, but we pray that the Republican Party can rejoin the real world before too many more elections are lost."

Diogo B. Teixeira '71 moved back to Belmont, though he winters in Hawaii. "Kids are grown and doing great."

"The Button article 'Relic from 3rd Head' reminded me of an episode from long ago," writes **Frederick W. Gander Jr. '65**. During the summer of 1964, several brothers were living in the house. This was normal in those days. The shower had been leaking and was damaging the ceiling in the hall below. It was decided that it needed to be repaired. The contractor had been identified, but the cost of demoing the tile walls and the floor was very steep. We, the summer residents, decided to do the demo work ourselves. With hammers and crowbars, we took down the tiles and their concrete board backing. The floor tiles were laid upon a concrete pad with a copper pan under it. The concrete was water-saturated and the pan was leaking. All the demoed materials were very dense and heavy. We broke everything into relatively small pieces that could fit into plastic wastebaskets. We carried each partially filled basket (up to what we could lift) down the back stairs and out the back door and deposited the debris into the DU's dumpster (we didn't ever have a dumpster in the time I was there). When we were done, all the

heavy debris was in the dumpster. When the dumpster company truck came to empty the dumpster, it was so heavy that the front of the truck lifted off the ground instead of the dumpster. I don't remember how the dumpster was finally emptied. Some of the brothers I remember being at the house during that summer were Sandy Blanchard, Mike Greata, Dave Manchester, Kerry Mock, and Dave Sullivan. In addition to demoing the shower, we played a lot of bridge and went canoeing on the river."

deceased

We regret to inform you of the death of the following brother:

Carl M. Mueller '41

March 21, 2021

DISTINGUISHED ALUMS FROM THE 50S AND '60S ATTEND THETA CHI REUNION OPEN HOUSE

For the second year in a row, the Theta Chi Reunion Weekend "Open House" was not held at 528 Beacon Street but instead was a virtual event. This event has become a very festive event to celebrate graduating seniors and their families on their commencement, and also to welcome alumni returning to MIT for their reunions back to the house. In prior years, this day has turned into quite a party with many of the Alumni Corporation and local Theta Chi alumni attending as well.

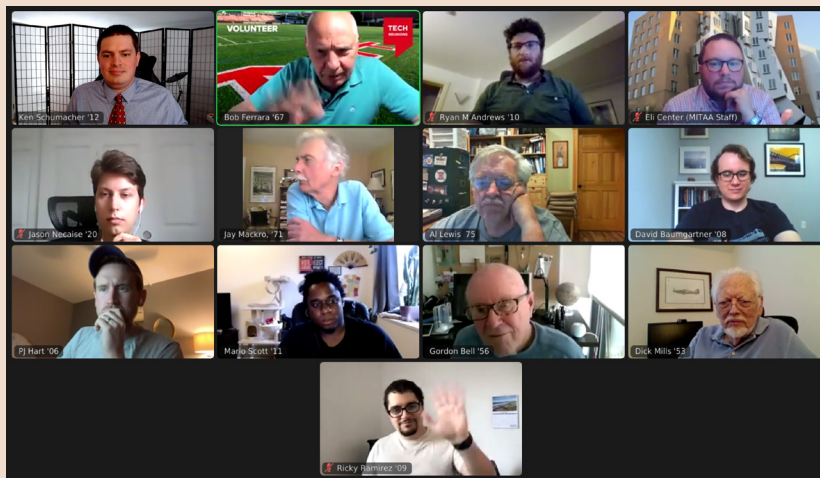
However, there is one advantage of the Zoom version that all of us are beginning to appreciate; folks can "drop-in" from just about anywhere. Each of us may be confined to our little Hollywood square on the screen, but we can beam-in from locations across the globe. This was the case this past June 4, when over a dozen of us Zoom'd in, along with three distinguished older alumni visitors.

Dick Mills '54 was the senior member of the day's crew. Like

many Theta Chis of earlier eras, Dick was a member of MIT's crew team back in his undergraduate days. **Gordon Bell '56** was there for his 65th reunion. Gordon was vice president of engineering at Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) during their glory years and oversaw the development of the hugely successful VAX computer line. He is also a founder of Boston's Computer Museum. He completed his computer career as a researcher with Microsoft. **Dick Nixon '64**, another course six grad, popped in also. Like his namesake and former US President,

Theta Chi's Dick Nixon was a president as well—a chapter president—during his undergraduate years. He also notched a few 5.0 GPAs during that time, finishing his MIT student days with two advanced degrees.

In 2022, commencement will be moved two weeks earlier to Friday, May 27, so this special occasion will be held that afternoon starting at 3 p.m. We look forward to seeing alums, spouses, and families of every generation, whether on Zoom or, hopefully, in-person at 528 Beacon St.



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