



# beta button

Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at MIT • Spring 2023



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



I joined Theta Chi in the fall of 2021 right after the peak of COVID-19 and I can say I was very excited to be a member of this community. I already knew some of the brothers and I felt that I truly fit in with the vibe and

the culture of the house. What I liked especially about the Theta Chi that I joined was that it was full of diverse individuals from many different backgrounds who had a variety of hobbies and interests. If there was ever any topic you were interested in learning more about or dabbling in, there was always a brother there who would either be present to support your interest or even join in an adventure.

The Theta Chi of spring 2023 is even more diverse and exciting with tons of brothers sharing their own ideas and visions as to what direction the fraternity should go toward. In previous years, we have been very heavy on the social scene at MIT going so much as to get a banner saying "Theta Chi Owns Friday Night." While we are still upholding those standards, we are also working to get closer to one another through the brotherhood events. This year, for the signature Around The World, we will not only serve cocktails from different cultures but also some of their signature dishes—all made by the brothers! Many of the brothers love going on brotherhood retreats, so we set aside some funds during our budget meeting to make more of these retreats possible. In April, 13 brothers and some of their friends all went on a cruise for a Theta Chi spring break to the Bahamas.

*It is because of events like these and the amazing community here that I can say I am proud to be a member of the Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity.*

**Dankwa Buckle '24,  
Undergraduate President**

## Successful Conclusion to the "Raise the Roof" Campaign

Thanks to the generosity of our brothers and some good work by our alumni corporation, the Raise the Roof campaign accomplished all its major objectives and more. Many of the challenges that necessitated this campaign were laid out in early 2018 by a system-wide professional facilities assessment effort that was performed across all the MIT fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups (FSILGs). One key goal identified by the undergraduates was to get roof deck fully approved and accessible. This inspired Dave Kress '67 to name this effort the Raise the Roof campaign.



Additional major improvements were a long overdue including repointing and repairing the entire exterior building façade, completely renovating the third-floor bathroom, and most recently, repairing all the interior doors. Minor projects included repairing the back stairs, installing new carpets on most floors, replacing the boiler, and making structural repairs to the beams above the Treasurer's Lounge.

The broad support of this effort was especially heartening. More than 170 brothers and friends contributed at least once to the campaign. During Alumni Weekend (April 21–23, 2023), we will install a bronze plaque on the first floor of 528 Beacon Street to commemorate all donors. If the plaque is delayed due to supply chain issues, the dedication will occur during the commencement open house on Friday, June 2, 2023.

Thanks to all of the donors, we met our \$50,000 fundraising goal every year of the five-year campaign. This accomplishment was greatly facilitated

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## Raise the Roof Campaign Honor Roll of Donors 2018-2022

Beta Chapter of Theta Chi gratefully acknowledges the generous donors to our "Raise the Roof" Campaign									
Jim Poltras '63 Matching Donor 2018	Dave Kreska '63 Matching Donor 2019	Chio Huxce '81 Matching Donor 2020	Ricky Ramirez '99 Matching Donor 2021	David Baumgartner '68 Building Committee Chair	Dedicated on Alumni Weekend, April 22, 2023				
D. Davis '48	W. Johnson '59	W. Gander '65	W. Dowling '69	M. Kneigh '76	C. Wilson '80	F. Rutherford '84	J. Pincus '91	M. Tomasko '92	S. Ojeda '12
W. Alford '61	J. Weintraub '73	G. Rose '80	B. Glaze '81	K. Kretschmer '76	J. Platt '81	C. Crane '85	M. Torres '91	B. Berman '94	K. Schumacher '10
E. Aquilino '12	J. Middlebrook '60	F. Smith '65	T. Moskuc '68	F. Ruiz '76	Chip Hance '81	M. Hermsdörfer '85	S. Cook '87	J. Hardy '95	C. Green '13
S. Hines '38	D. Robinson '60	B. Zitter '69	W. Meyer '70	F. Sisk '77	D. Summa '80	F. Weinberger '81	D. Webb '82	R. Hart '86	J. Katz '14
E. Thompson '88	D. Wadler '80	T. Kapushnik '86	J. Shengood '88	D. Stranahan '77	E. Hinkle '82	A. Weiss '88	F. Tompkins '92	N. Schuch '96	A. Meyer '14
G. Bell '84	K. Brady '82	D. Hinkle '88	N. D'Onofrio '71	F. Rayles '78	J. Mulier '82	B. Harty '86	F. Wapman '92	E. Gault '97	R. Thompson '14
J. Hamblet '86	J. Lambert '82	B. Tenney '87	J. Mackin '71	S. Platt '78	B. Walker '82	M. Quinn '86	B. Weintraub '92	D. Baumgartner '98	A. Marlowe '13
W. Brady '87	C. Wiley '82	R. Fomaz '87	J. Runkle '71	M. Pritchard '76	S. Adkins '80	T. McCreary '87	G. Agnew '89	M. Jellon '89	A. Vogel '15
A. Burger '87	R. Anzures '83	E. Hovick '87	A. Lydon '72	C. Bittig '79	C. Bowers '83	E. Cahelo '86	R. Bogen '89	J. Xu '89	D. Alver '16
N. Davis '87	W. Beaman '83	H. Jones '87	C. Shen '73	B. Bryant '79	B. Runk '81	M. Dettlinger '88	J. D'Onofrio '91	W. Marguerite '95	S. Lander '17
A. Rickman '87	J. Peltier '83	D. Kress '87	B. Hagan '74	J. Hultsch '79	J. Kneib '81	S. Marguerite '88	J. D'Onofrio '91	A. Krammer '96	A. Mitchell '19
G. Saul '87	S. Thompson '84	D. Telesky '87	W. Stargardt '74	S. Rappaport '79	D. Kessler '83	M. Tsung '89	J. Chang '95	R. Andrews '10	C. Hermsdörfer '20
D. Anderson '88	R. Nelson '84	W. Gardner '88	A. Williams '74	G. Wilson '79	A. Bergsma '83	D. Emery '90	D. Friedman '91	W. Mahu '10	J. Hamelberg '22
D. Buhl '88	H. Ruck '84	T. Pave '88	J. Alford '80	C. Albright '80	E. Vlasov '88	D. Auerbach '91	W. Johnson '90	K. Wang '18	A. Kram '22
H. Linder '88	D. Soliman '84	L. Preston '88	W. Davidson '79	M. Lehrer '86	G. Clement '94	M. Conrad '91	K. Huang '92	S. Hockland '11	A. Hamelberg '24
H. Pearson '88	D. Smith '84	L. Sauer '88	T. Pritchard '79	C. Rappaport '80	D. Mackay '84	A. Lee '81	M. Tao '88	R. Newhouse '11 (Krammer)	
K. San Miguel '88	T. Olson '85	D. Anderson '89	H. Ignatius '79	G. Smith '80	A. Wachs '84	M. McCaskey '91	D. Berkley '92	M. Scott '11	
C. Smiley '88	J. Ryan '85	D. Campanella '86	A. Wilger '86		F. Palmer '84	R. Kram '91	G. Markowitz '92	A. Etkin '12	

Many friends and family also contributed in memory of John Helleberich '79

Many friends and family also contributed in memory of Phil Smith '65

This is a photo of the artwork sent to the metal fabricator who is creating the plaque to be delivered to 528 Beacon Street later this spring. The 176 names are arranged by class year, from Benjamin Dann '48 all the way through the current chapter president, Andre Hamelberg '24: a span of 76 years!



# Congratulations, Graduating Seniors!



**Cameron Hilman**

I joined Theta Chi during my freshman year because of the amazing people I met in those first few weeks and I'm happy to say that I'll be leaving it with equally admirable men. The memories and bonds I have made in this house are truly unforgettable, and I look forward to keeping in touch as I enter my master's program in aerospace engineering this fall.



**Kevin Awoufack**

I met the members of Theta Chi in passing interest and instead found a great community. Honestly, I never imagined myself joining a fraternity. Living as a brother of Theta Chi has shown me that it's more than just about parties or stereotypes. It is about the conversations a group of diverse, fun people can bring. I'll keep the lessons I learned from this brotherhood in mind as I pursue my MEng. in the fall and for the rest of my life.



**Conrad Oakes**

I didn't expect to join a fraternity when I entered college, but the brothers of Theta Chi offered such an amazing community that I rapidly changed my mind. The best memories from my college experience have been created due to the camaraderie of this brotherhood and I can't imagine having spent four years anywhere else. I'll always treasure these memories as I begin my PhD in biological engineering next fall.

## "Raise the Roof" Campaign

by four brothers in particular who agreed to double every donation of at least \$250: Jim Poitras '63, Dave Keselica '83, Chip Hance '81, and Ricky Ramirez '09. A special thanks goes to David Baumgartner '08 for overseeing much of the work and liaising with the undergraduates (who were also gracious in accommodating the many contractors and inspectors who needed to access the building).

Although our Raise the Roof campaign is ending and the house is in good condition, the fact remains that 528 Beacon Street is more than 100 years old, and consequently, we will never truly be completely done with repairs, improvements, and general maintenance work. A more recent MIT FSILG assessment has identified two "big ticket" items that will require our attention in the short-term: replacing our sprinkler system that is more than 30 years old and upgrading our fire alarm systems. These projects will be completed in partnership with MIT, but the corporation will still be financially responsible for a non-trivial portion of these expenses.

To ensure the future of 528 Beacon Street as a welcoming and safe home

for future generations of Theta Chis, we humbly ask for your help. As with the Raise the Roof campaign, monetary donations can be given to the alumni corporation directly or through our partnership with the Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing. If you donate to MIT directly, another way of supporting Theta Chi is to earmark a portion of your donation for the Independent Residence Development Fund (IRDF). The IRDF is overseen by a board of FSILG alumni/ae, and they provide low-interest loans and interest-free grants to FSILGs for repairs and renovations. The amount available for grants to each FSILG is partially determined by the giving history of its alumni, so even a small donation can help Theta Chi's IRDF participation statistic. Finally, the corporation is always looking for volunteers to help mentor undergraduates, engage in strategic planning, or otherwise "lend a helping hand." If you're interested in becoming more involved, feel free to contact any current corporation member or email [thetachi@mit.edu](mailto:thetachi@mit.edu).

**Bob Ferrara '67**





# Theta Chi Social Calendar Strong as Ever

Thanks to consistent crops of dedicated social chairs over the last few semesters, the Theta Chi social calendar is as strong as ever. Fall 2022, as with most semesters, was packed with events from parties to brotherhood nights to a successful semiformal. A few of the highlights included utilizing Jose Martinez's artistic talents creating party posters, a general inability of the brotherhood to wire sound equipment (with the notable exception of the one and only Cameron Hilman), and one exploding second-floor paint can. Andre Hamelberg was the tip of the spear in organizing a phenomenal semiformal in a private room of Filippo Ristorante, complete with floor-to-ceiling windows and ceiling murals. While dinner brought the brotherhood together, that camaraderie didn't last long. The rest of the night brought out the true Theta Chi competitive spirit, with a cutthroat double-elimination pong

tournament that saw Jaden Thomas take the crown. The brotherhood chairs also stepped up to the plate, contributing to the Theta Chi social scene with a raucous Around the World pub night highlighted by Cameron's ever-present soju and Dankwa and Andre's smooth, thick, and creamy mystery beverage. Weekly Sunday brunches have made a storming comeback, featuring mimosas and all kinds of waffles including overcooked and undercooked but never in between. Wednesday night study breaks also saw success in dragging the brothers away from the incessant stream of work with ridiculously unhealthy snacks and some unique games that usually avoided incurring bodily harm. As a result of the efforts of all brothers, the house is drawn ever closer together.

This semester, the sights of the social chairs are set squarely on mixers. Theta Chi has had

tremendous success with all manner of social events thanks to the combined efforts of the brotherhood and social chairs, however, for some reason, the house has been allergic to having fun mixers recently. As the saying goes: a smooth sea never made a skilled sailor. All three social chairs were elected with fixing mixers in mind and have already started to work in developing creative new ideas to repair mixer culture in the house. Headed by Darius Nguapi, the first mixer of the spring '23 semester received rave reviews from MIT Pi Phi, who showed out in record numbers. The brothers are excited to turn over a new leaf and fix the only weak point in what has otherwise been an exceptionally strong year on the social side of the fraternity.

***Spencer Yandrofski '24,  
Social Chair***



A picture from the 2023 Spring Break cruise featuring Undergraduate President Dankwa Buckle, via @mitthetachi on Instagram.

**James Middlekauff '60:** Retired. My company was acquired by Pfizer. Moved to Asheville six years ago. Enjoying the great weather and scenery. Have five adult children and seven grandchildren. I manage to work out at Golds Gym every day.

**Terrance Chinn '65:** God used my freshman year at MIT as a pivotal year in my life! I instead went to medical school and became psychiatrist! But, I recall my time at Theta Chi with fondness and a bit of envy for all of you who have or will complete a course of study there. Wishing you my best.

**Thomas Moebus '69** Became active during early COVID time in several projects. Ricci GQ Young Scholars is a US-China virtual education program for high-school juniors and seniors that meets

biweekly on Zoom since September 2020, aiming to create a cadre of cooperative young people to work on climate issues. Early success will incorporate and grow the program this year. Shift Workshop was a six-hour virtual training for small businesses to help them survive and thrive through the pandemic. Delivered 15 cohorts of this program through Stony Brook, Illinois. Serve as president of a chorale society in Connecticut, where I live, and on several boards. In 2022, I celebrated the 20th anniversary of Octane, a SoCal based innovation ecosystem I co-founded to inject MIT DNA into that region. Octane has had nice success, helping launch more than 1,500 innovation businesses, helping raise \$4.6B in capital and creating 28,000 jobs in the region.



## Chapter Eternal

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

**Joseph Harian Jr. '49**

July 17, 2018

**Arthur Brownlow '55**

January 4, 2022

**Eric Thompson '55**

January 4, 2022

## Class of 2023 Board Dinner

March 2023



Annual senior-board dinner at Dillon's on Boylston Street with the brothers of 2023: (L-R) Kevin Awoufack, Cameron Hilman, Conrad Oakes, Ryan Andrews '10, Ken Schumacher '12, Bob Ferrara '67, and David Campanella '76.



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**[OX.mit.edu/alumni](https://OX.mit.edu/alumni)**

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