

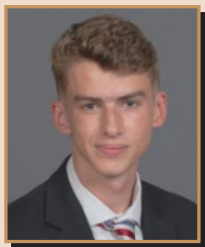


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Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at MIT • Spring 2024



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Aidan Vaughan '25
House President

My membership in Theta Chi was never a guarantee. I had to be convinced to join in the fall of my sophomore year, however, I have never regretted becoming a brother.

I was close to a few of the brothers when I first joined, but what really

drew me in was the strong community Theta Chi has to offer. We are full of brothers who support each other every day from working on Pssets during the week to hanging out at brotherhood brunches on the weekends. Any of our pledges will tell you that our most attractive feature is the camaraderie we have. Even as we initiate new brothers and older brothers become alumni, our culture remains strong.

These new brothers will have plenty of opportunities to make the house their own, just as I did. In my short time living at 528 Beacon Street, the brothers and I have added a lot to the house. My roommate and I painted Alley "Ocean Boulevard" blue. The brothers renovated T lounge, adding a new projector and gaming system, upgrading the sound system, and painting the walls military red. Brotherhood chairs have hosted countless Around The World Pub Nights and formals, and we have continued our longstanding ownership of Friday nights. Our brothers continue to add layers of history to the house.

As we continue in 2024 and look to the future, there are many challenges and opportunities ahead. This spring, we will be saying goodbye to our many seniors who joined during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The size of that class was a major accomplishment, but it also means our rush chairs will have to work overtime to replace such an integral portion of the house. Our rush program is already off to a great start, gaining four pledges this spring. Even as this semester comes to a close, preparations for fall rush have already begun.

I can't wait to showcase the Beta Chapter of Theta Chi to the newest generation of resolute men.

REUNION OPEN HOUSE AT 528 FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2024 AT 2:00 P.M.

This wonderful tradition is again gaining momentum after the pandemic. This is a time to bring together many of us, including graduating seniors, parents, Reunion-bound alumni, local Boston-area alumni, and several actives living in the house for the summer. All these folks are invited and encouraged to visit 528 Beacon Street on Friday, May 31, around 2:00 p.m. to whenever. The house corporation will have plenty of food and drink on hand as we honor the graduating seniors, who will receive their MIT diplomas that morning. Graduates and their families always appreciate this respite after the long commencement ceremony.

This occasion also affords alumni returning for the MIT Reunion a chance to relax and see the house. You can also see the renewal work accomplished during the recently completed Raise the Roof campaign. We think you will be pleased with the house and especially with the strength and diversity of the actives, who had another good rush last fall. You can expect to have lots of conversations and share memories with brothers from various eras.

We hope to see as many brothers and families as possible on Friday afternoon, May 31. If you are coming that afternoon or have any questions, email thetachi@mit.edu. You can expect a warm welcome.



Meet The Class of 2024: Our Graduating Seniors



Left to right: Jackson Zhang, Derrick Liang, Jose Martinez, Lucas Marden, Nick Schultz, Leon Fan, Spencer Yandrofski, Andre Hamelberg, Raj Mehta, Ahmed Diongue, and Dankwa Buckle.

Hey everyone, my name is Dankwa Buckle, and I am from Atlanta, Georgia. I will be graduating this year with a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. After graduation, I will be working at an aerospace and defense management consulting company, Renaissance Strategic Advisors (RSAdvisors). I will be based in the DC area; RSAdvisors is in northern Arlington/Rosslyn. Feel free to reach out at any time!

Dankwa Buckle '24

Theta Chi has been my home since the spring of my freshman year when a senior convinced me to join both Theta Chi and Course 3 (materials science and engineering). Our rush class has matured and changed with the house. I am incredibly grateful to have had my rush class brothers and newer members by my side throughout the best and worst parts of college. I hope to keep in touch with my brothers and alumni as I work next year before starting a PhD program in the fall of 2025.

Lucas Marden '24

After calling Theta Chi home for the past three years, it is bittersweet to be leaving such a great community that our large senior class has helped shape. This summer I will be driving out to Los Angeles for a job as a mechanical engineer at a defense tech startup, Mach Industries. I will also begin my service time in the military as an engineer officer in the Army Reserves. I am excited for what the future holds and I am also looking forward to reuniting with the class at future Alumni Weekends!

Nicholas Schultz '24

During my time at Theta Chi, I liked to refer to myself as the greatest social chair of all time. I hope that I was successful in proving that to be true by providing great events for my brothers. Finishing up my term as UA president, I plan to graduate in May with degrees in Course 10 and 18; work in Brazil at a plastics manufacturing company for the summer; and begin working as a quantitative research analyst at BlackRock in NYC. I hope to continue my studies in the near future, but for now, it is time to make some money. Lastly, I hope to be elected to MIT's Corporation. I am currently on the ballot. By the time this is published, we will know the results. Fingers crossed! Always feel free to reach out to me!

Andre Hamelberg '24

Hey everyone, I am Ahmed Diongue and I am graduating in May with a BS in aerospace engineering. My future plans include going to law school and earning a master's degree in aerospace engineering. Always open to chat, reach out any time!

Ahmed Diongue '24

My name is Divij, and I'm from Orlando, Florida. I graduated last fall with a degree in mathematics (18) and computer science (6-3). This spring, I traveled to Europe and Asia and spent time with my family and friends. I will be starting at Citadel in NYC this July, so if any brothers are ever in the area, please feel free to reach out!

Divij Lankalapalli '24

Hey everyone, my name is Jose Martinez. I am from Guanajuato, Mexico, and I went to high school in Biloxi, Mississippi. I am majoring in computer science. After graduating, I plan to work as a software engineer and also work on my startup; I develop apps from the ground up. I just released an app last month called Mixer which is a comprehensive solution to all things parties.

Jose Martinez '24

Having pledged Theta Chi in my sophomore fall and moving into the house the following semester, I consider joining this fraternity to be one of the best decisions I made at MIT. A large part of why I joined was because I was inspired by the tight-knit community, as well as the diverse backgrounds—academic, cultural, and geographic—that I encountered amongst the brothers. There was never pressure to be a certain type of person: every brother I met brought something unique to the table and embodied the truest version of themselves. Now, four years have passed at MIT. I look forward to staying in touch with my fellow brothers and alumni. I plan to continue my education at MIT beginning work on my master of engineering dual degree in computer science and economics in the fall of 2025.

Raj Mehta '24

My name is Derrick, and I'm from Herndon, Virginia. I major in computer science and music and will be returning next year to pursue a master's degree in computer science, concentrating in performance engineering. In my free time, I enjoy drawing, interior decoration, and cooking.

Derrick Liang '24

From my first time meeting them, the brothers of Theta Chi stood out to me as great role models and even better friends. I give a lot of credit to the class of '22 for creating a hugely positive and developmental environment for my rush class. They truly showed us what it means to be a member of Theta Chi. During my time at 528 Beacon, I forged stronger bonds than I would have thought possible and grew as a person alongside my fellow brothers. There is no good way to describe the emotions I've felt and memories I've made along the way. I will always cherish the small things: the unplanned conversations and the T-lounge forums, that made our friendships so real. I hope to maintain and develop these relationships as I continue to work in Boston at Chartwell Consulting, beginning in September.

Spencer Yandrofski '24

Beta Chapter and Boston: 1970s to Now

David Campanella '76 (with editorial assistance from Ryan Andrews '10)

Except for starting my career in Louisiana from 1976 to 1978, I have been in Boston for 50 years. I have watched the house and the traditions change over the years so I thought I would write down some of the more notable changes that I have seen:

Rush Week: As alumni probably all know by now, Rush Week has undergone serious changes since the 1970s. The MIT undergraduate population is now much more diverse, and today's Theta Chi undergraduates are under much stricter scrutiny. I remember that during the summertime, fraternities would reach out to incoming freshmen about joining, and many of us who joined Theta Chi immediately moved into the chapter house. Nowadays, undergraduates are required to obey restrictions about how and when freshmen can be "rushed," and they are no longer allowed to live at 528 Beacon Street until their sophomore year.

During my time as an undergraduate, our rush events included a cookout at Fubar house (a Theta Chi alumni's house), Harbor Cruise with a late dinner in Chinatown, the Sunday Steak and Eggs Breakfast, and the Terwilliger one-man rock party on Labor Day. There was also a post-rush football game at Wellesley. It was supposed to be two-hand touch, but somehow it always turned into something a bit more, with the freshmen always losing to the upperclassmen. Nowadays, rush events tend to be more house-focused. During the 2023 fall rush, Theta Chi held mostly food-centric events: spicy ramen dinner, steak dinner, chicken and waffles breakfast, and an Iron Chef-style cooking competition. Whatever they're doing has been working, as Theta Chi is one of the fastest-growing fraternities on campus!

Day-to-Day Life: Staples of my era of Theta Chi were the "House Mother" painting, the 25-cent beer machine, the Crossroads jukebox, and Michael Sayers's (class of '75) artwork. Unfortunately, these have all been either lost or discarded. I also remember the ΘX Fine ART Society (OxFARTS) movies that we used to project onto a white sheet. I think we stopped showing those movies once we realized that drivers on Storrow Drive could see them, and maybe we would cause an accident. I also recall that a source of contention in the house was over what we watched on television. The only TV in the house was in the front common room where voting took place. Usually, the candidates were either the Bruins, another sporting event, or reruns of *Star Trek*. The "voting" usually devolved into which side could pin the other side to the ground. If you tried to get to the TV channel knobs you probably got tackled. Sometimes, you would reach the TV and find that the control knobs were not even there! It seemed like every year we got a new TV. The room was packed for the 5th game of the '75 World Series. When Carlton Fisk hit his 12-inning home run the room exploded and we could hear the crowds from Fenway and Kenmore Square. Our dreams would be dashed a few days later and we had to wait 29 years for a World Series.

By many accounts, the undergraduates today live in a totally different house. Thanks to alumni donations and a low-interest loan from the MIT Independent Residence Development Fund (IRDF), most of the chapter house's physical plant has been upgraded or

replaced. The huge oil burning furnace that heated our house was replaced in the late 2000s with a more energy gas efficient model. We have also upgraded the electrical wiring of the chapter house, installed "next generation" wireless internet hubs, and completely renovated the third-floor bathroom. During the 1980s, 528 Beacon Street had fire sprinkler systems installed, and these are the next items due to be replaced or upgraded in the coming years. Of course, with the advent of cell phones, we no longer have "phone duty" or even a working house telephone. Brothers still have a common TV, but nowadays, it's used to play next-gen video games rather than watch television shows.

Sports: Another notable change over the last 50 years has been the chapter's involvement in sports. I fondly remember the annual active-alumni football game that took place every fall semester (which were refereed by actual MIT officials, and not upperclassmen like our post-rush game at Wellesley). The undergraduate-alumni game usually went in favor of the alumni, but the brothers were able to break a long losing streak in

'74 and '75 thanks to Brian Wellendorf '77 who implemented three different zone defenses that baffled most teams, pre-Belichick. Shortly after graduating, I got to line up against my little brother, John Helferich '79, and then we were teammates for a few years. These are some of my fondest memories of my time with John.

Outside of this annual game, Theta Chi fielded a B-league football team for MIT intramurals. We often played against our rivals next door, Delta Upsilon. The best teams were usually made up of members of ΣAE or the Black Student Union (BSU). If their game happened to be on a field after ours, we usually stopped to watch. Somewhat amusingly, we sometimes ran a trick football play called the BSU. Later on, we heard from the Black Student Union that they ran the same play, and they called it the Theta Chi. The idea was to act disorganized and send one player off the field like we had too many on the field. He would instead stop near the sideline, and the ball is quick-snap ped to him. We only used it once when we were down 0-12. It was our first play of the second half, which led to a 13-12 victory.

You also cannot talk about sports at Theta Chi in the 1970s without mentioning our hockey team, which competed in the A-league and won. A lot.

Today, it seems that sports are less of a focus for Theta Chi undergraduates. We now have our Alumni Weekend during the spring semester, and the football game has been replaced by a softball game. For the last few years, the alumni have decimated the undergraduates, but maybe one day the undergraduates will put together a competitive team. Other than that annual game, the undergraduates participate in B- or C-league intramurals, including basketball, billiards, and soccer. We also have many guys who are in the ROTC program, and while this is not a sport per se, it certainly means physical fitness is a focus of those members of the chapter. They even converted part of the old boiler room into a weight room, where they have informal weightlifting competitions.

Overall, the chapter has certainly changed; I would say for the better. If you haven't come back to 528 Beacon Street in a while, it is well worth the visit!



ALUMNI NEWS

William A. Bayer '58: Closed my PE office after 55 years. All well here!

Robert T. Brady '62: I recently turned 83. I'm amazed that I'm still alive and as old as **Chet Riley '62** and **Jim Poitras '63**. I retired in 2014 after 23 years as CEO of Moog Inc. We built flight controls for airplanes (military and commercial), satellites, and the space shuttles. I'm still a director of two public companies that don't have age limits. I loved my job. My wife Ann and I have been married 55 years. We have three kids and five brilliant and beautiful grandchildren. I rowed all five years at MIT. I should have taken golf lessons. At this stage in life, all anyone cares about is whether or not you can play to your handicap. All the best for a great 2024!

Terrance A. Chinn: I have been getting smarter about how to treat my wife the way she truly deserves! This is a different sort of "smarts" that I cultivated at MIT. I wished I had learned it sooner; I am now 80! God bless you guys in your own relationships!



Chapter Eternal

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

Ralph E. Pickett Jr. '48 July 5, 2019	William B. Lehmann '55 January 19, 2024
Harold E. Jones '51 April 17, 2023	Earl R. Smiddy Jr. '58 January 5, 2024



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