



beta button

Beta Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at MIT • Spring 2025

Brotherhood in Motion: Growing, Building, and Strengthening Theta Chi

by Sebastian Losada '26, Undergraduate President, House Manager

Freshman-year me would have been surprised to hear that I would join a fraternity during my time at MIT. I rushed Theta Chi in search of camaraderie and the opportunity to enrich my social life, and found myself so intrigued by the group of guys that I decided to stay. The brotherhood I found was exactly what I was looking for: a welcoming community just as spontaneous as myself. An outing with the brothers might consist of anything from a trip to Cafe 472 to an impromptu camping trip to see a lunar eclipse. There is never a dull evening!

Growth has been a big focus for our chapter this year, having just graduated a large senior class and preparing to graduate another. We have grown quite a bit, gaining a class of fourteen pledges in the fall and seven more this spring. Each member of this characteristically diverse fall class has stayed with us through the spring, and their unpredictable antics keep

me constantly on my toes. I am especially impressed by the ownership that these guys have taken during work week, repainting the entire second floor and constructing a permanent DJ stand for our parties. Additionally, many have taken on roles in their first semesters as brothers, including VPHS Noah Roberts on the Exec Board.

My biggest goal is to try to move as many of these guys into the house as possible. Not only will this move decrease the house bill (although that is certainly on my mind), but it will fill our house with the fraternal cacophony of days past. Some reluctantly cling to the convenience and proximity of their dormitories but I can feel the passion that this new class has for Theta Chi and their determination to advance our brotherhood.

I have every bit of faith that these guys will take us in the right direction.

A Semester of Unforgettable Events at Theta Chi

by Ashwin Prabhakar '27, Social Chair

This spring semester at Theta Chi has been nothing short of eventful. Every weekend either has a party, mixer, or simple brotherhood event and there is always an opportunity to kick back and let loose with brothers and friends. In February, we saw the occurrence of our first-ever Valentine's Day Social, complete with charcuterie, fruit, a chocolate fountain, and a live jazz band. This event was a hit and will hopefully become a part of the house culture for future years.

Don't sweat, though. We are still throwing parties as frequently as ever, with six officially

scheduled for the term and more bound to be added as the weather continues to warm up. This recent weekend, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day as we partied Friday night away in honor of our token Irishman **Aidan Vaughan**. As we look to after spring break, our classic event "Around the World" is scheduled, and the house is looking forward to the multiple countries and cultures that will be represented.

We are also closing in on probably the biggest spring event, Marathon Monday, as we, along with the rest of the city, gather to cheer on all of

those who are running in the Boston Marathon. Those of us who are less inclined to run prefer to participate in a different marathon, but display our common love and support for the wonderful city of Boston. Also, it would be shameful not to mention it, but Alumni Weekend is taking place at the end of April. Our new members are excited for the opportunities to meet the Theta Chi brothers from years past, as we will gather to strengthen the brotherhood. As always, being a Theta Chi brother is far from uneventful, and we will ride the wave from this semester into the future.

REUNION OPEN HOUSE AT 528

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2025

MIT commencement and Reunion Weekend is a wonderful opportunity for a gathering of Theta Chis, friends, and family at 528 Beacon. It is a time to bring together many of us, including graduating seniors, their parents, reunion-bound alums, local Boston-area alums, and several actives living at 528 Beacon St. over the summer.

All these folks are invited and encouraged to visit 528 Beacon on Friday, May 30, from 2:00 pm to whenever. The house corporation will have plenty of food and drink on hand as we honor the graduating seniors (who received their MIT diplomas that morning) and their parents. They always appreciate this respite after a long graduation ceremony.

Alumni returning for an MIT reunion will have a great opportunity to relax and see the house, and also see the renewal work accomplished during the Raise the Roof campaign.

We think you will be pleased with the house, especially 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. We hope to see as many brothers and families as possible on Friday afternoon, May 30. If you are coming that afternoon or have any questions, just contact thetachi@mit.edu. You can expect a warm welcome.

Pledge Class Update

by Joel Manu '27, Marshal

Following a large and dedicated fall pledge class, the Beta Chapter of Theta Chi entered the spring semester focused on recruiting potential brothers who could strengthen our fraternity and represent its ideals to the MIT community. That effort has paid off; we are proud to welcome a diverse and talented group of pledges this semester.

Our spring pledge class brings together students from a wide range of disciplines, interests, and skills. Among them are startup founders, varsity water polo players, emergency medical responders, and members of MIT's dance groups. Despite their different backgrounds, they share a common commitment to our values and a drive to push themselves and each other to be better.

Pledges have been actively engaging with our brotherhood and learning what it means to be resolute men who are always willing to lend a helping hand. They stepped up at our Lift-a-Thon, using their strength to raise money for the USO and other charities, demonstrating the service-oriented spirit that defines Theta Chi.

As they continue their journey, we look forward to seeing them grow and contribute to our chapter. Their enthusiasm and dedication make us excited for the future of Theta Chi at MIT.



SPRING 2025 OFFICERS

President

Sebastian Losada '26

VP

Ashwin Prabhakar '27

VPHS

Noah Roberts '27

Marshal

Joel Manu '27

Vice-Marshal

Maxwell Sun '26

Treasurer

Kartik Pingle '26

Secretary

Ian Morris '26

Rush

Maxwell Sun '26

Noah Roberts '27

Arjun Melwani '28

H-men

Ian Morris '26

Makar Kuznietsov '25

Work Week

Alex Edwards '25

Videet Mehta '28

Bilal Asmatullah '27

Steward

Jaden Thomas-Markarian '25

Social

Ashwin Prabhakar '27

Arnav Adhikari '28

Eric Nguyen '28

Brotherhood

Kaden Silva '25

Aidan Vaughan '25

Brian Robinson '27

Alex Edwards '25

Risk

Calvin Baker '26

Ian Morris '26

Matthew Alderson '28

Elwin Au '28

Chaplain

Brian Robinson '25

Comm Serv

Kaden Silva '25

Scholarship

Dat Tran '27

Tech Chair

Kartik Pingle '26

Alumni

Akshar Cowlagi '28

Athletics

Ali Backour '26

Historian

Sebastian Losada '26

PR Chair

Om Patel '28

Standards

Senior: Aidan Bousquet '25

Junior: Ian Morris '26

Sophomore: Dat Tran '27

Freshman: Sam Blackburn '28

Alt: Elwin Au '28

1st Guard

Alex Edwards '25

2nd Guard

Garrett Heller '26

Last Office

Kartik Pingle '26

The "Summery" – ΘΧ Summer Housing Rundown

by Aidan Bousquet '25

In another Boston summer where temperatures rose to the 90s, Theta Chi kept relatively cool. At the beginning of the summer, the house hosted alumni, recent graduates, and their families after commencement. It was encouraging and promising to see how far alumni have come and how strong those bonds have remained over the years. During the summer, there were 26 boarders, including six brothers and one alumnus. These brothers were engaged in a wide range of activities, from aeronautics, biology, and computer science research to quantitative analyst internships to nuclear power plant maintenance.

A few tasks and scenarios were handled this summer. Our fire escapes were recertified for the next five years, and we started the process of recertifying our roof for the next half decade. There was one boarder who chose not to move in, and there were a few boarders who were

moving out too slowly. There was also a situation where we rightfully had to tow the car of another fraternity's summer boarder since it was in one of our parking spots prior to the event with alumni and new graduates. No expense was spared in having the vehicle towed and ensuring that the boarder received their car back. Finally, there were general issues with cleanliness in the house, but boarders and brothers were responsive when told to do their summer waits.

Whilst there were not as many parties thrown during the summer, some of the brothers went out, partied, and hung out together. July 4 celebrations, in particular, were vibrant, with alumni returning to the house and brothers inviting their friends over to enjoy the camaraderie and the fireworks. All in all, the graduands became graduates, the brothers had some fun, and the house survived through another successful summer at Theta Chi.

In Memory of James Richard "Jim" Thompson

by Michael Mayer, Theta Chi National

Jim was a man of intellect, sharp wit, and a wry sense of humor. He was a lover of life, his family, and the many pets he cherished over the years. Known as a dedicated architect, school board member, and community advocate, Jim was driven by career and civic engagement with a singular focus on uplifting those around him.

After MIT Jim earned his master's degree in architecture from Carnegie Mellon.

He was passionate about his chosen career in architecture, leaving his mark on numerous buildings and spaces during his 40 years of practice in Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. While he specialized in K-12 educational buildings, his greatest joy came from mentoring aspiring interns, helping shape the next generation of architects.

Jim was honored to serve as an elected member (and once president) of the Harrisburg School District board. A committed community leader, he also lent his expertise to the Mt. Lebanon municipal planning board and the after-school program board. Additionally, he held leadership positions, including past president and board member of the DePaul School for Hearing and Speech and the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

As an educational counselor for MIT, he interviewed prospective students; was on the steering committee of the Communities Practicing Resiliency; and served in multiple capacities as an alumnus of Theta Chi Fraternity.



James Richard "Jim" Thompson '79.

A world traveler, loyal friend, generous opponent, and devoted husband, father, and community leader, Jim had a curious mind—always learning something new, often by listening to podcasts from morning until night. Though he never sought the spotlight, his steady presence and guiding influence were impossible to miss. He gave generously of his time and heart to family, friends, and even casual acquaintances, embodying empathy and kindness in all that he did. He never met a small animal he didn't embrace. A devoted Steelers fan, he owned just one pair of jeans in his adult life, always opting to dress sharply even for the simplest occasion. His knack for telling "bad jokes" reflected his sharp intellect, and his compassionate nature shone through in every interaction.

Jim is survived by his wife of 18 years, Jane, the love of his life; his sister, Judy Jacobs (Michael); his son, Charlie (Jenean); his daughter, Laura (Aaron); grandchildren, Freyja, Morrihan, Gabriel, Leo, Walker, and Rex; stepchildren, Philip and Katie Sierzega; many loving nieces and nephews; and his dachshund, Smidgeon. He was predeceased by his parents; his sister, Jan MacAulay; and his brother-in-law, Doug MacAulay.

Donations in his memory can be made to the Harrisburg Public Schools Foundation, PO Box 54, Harrisburg, PA 17108 or via www.hbgpsf.org/donate-now.



James with Smidgeon.

Lift-A-Thon:

This spring, the brothers of Theta Chi Beta Chapter launched a new staple charity event for our chapter: Lift-a-Thon. The first-ever Lift-a-Thon brought together over 100 brothers and participants to raise money for three meaningful charities: Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD), the United Service Organizations (USO), and Superhumans Center.

Designed as a campus-wide challenge, the event invited members of the MIT community to test their strength and endurance across five exercises: bench press, push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups, and squats. Participants were challenged to complete as many reps as possible, with every rep contributing toward our fundraising goal. The energy throughout the day was electric, with brothers and guests cheering each other on and pushing themselves for charity.

Our charities were chosen carefully to reflect the event's mission and the causes that resonate with our brotherhood. PPMD was selected for its focus on supporting those with muscular diseases, which directly aligned with our event's theme of promoting muscle health.

The USO was a meaningful choice for many of our brothers in ROTC, especially senior brother **Alex Edwards '25**, who shared, "The USO has particularly impacted Theta Chi because of our historical and recent connection to the military and ROTC. The USO provides support services and aid for the transition into civilian life for US military members. We are happy to support their efforts and look forward to being able to help more in the future."

The Superhumans Center was chosen thanks to brother **Makar Kuznietsov**, who is from Ukraine and personally connected to the organization. Superhumans provides advanced rehabilitation for adults and children injured in war, helping them recover and rebuild their lives. Makar also played a huge role in the early planning stages and ran a protein shake stand at the event to raise additional donations. Alex was another huge support, stepping up as a co-event organizer in the final month of preparations. His family also made

a generous personal contribution of \$4,500, directed specifically to the USO.

To build excitement, we ran a large campus-wide marketing campaign that included posters, custom event tank tops (featured in the photo), and pop-up events where students could complete bodyweight exercises for charity. One of the most memorable moments from these pop-ups was when MIT President Sally Kornbluth stopped by and joined us for a set of push-ups.

The Lift-a-Thon took place on March 15, 2025 at the Wang Fitness Center, the perfect space to bring together students, brothers, and supporters. One of the most impressive moments of the day came from freshman brother **Eric Nguyen**, who completed an incredible 220 one-arm push-ups, embodying the spirit of the event with his personal challenge and drive.

Thanks to the incredible effort from everyone involved, we surpassed our \$7,770 goal and raised a total of \$8,120.

The event created a unique space for brothers to share their passion for fitness while supporting causes that truly matter. Special recognition goes to our top three performers, all current brothers, who completed the most exercises for charity: **Ian Morris**, **Eric Nguyen**, and **Seb Losada**.

Beyond raising money, Lift-a-Thon represents our vision to build a lasting philanthropic tradition on campus. Annual events like this help strengthen Theta Chi's presence at MIT and showcase our values of service, brotherhood, and community impact. We believe that growing this event in the years to come will solidify our role as a philanthropic organization that deeply cares about giving back.

This event could not have been possible without the generous support of our alumni corporation and MIT's Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation (DAPER), whose partnership was essential to making the Lift-a-Thon a success. We are excited about the potential to grow this event with DAPER's continued collaboration and look forward to establishing the Lift-a-Thon as a lasting tradition that combines fitness, philanthropy, and brotherhood for years to come.



Brothers and pledges (left to right): Sam Blackburn, Ashwin Prabhakar, Elwin Au, Maxwell Sun, Garrett Heller, Dylan Nguyen, Joel Manu, Michael Albanez, Alex Edwards, Kaden Silva, Calvin Baker, Darius Nguepi.

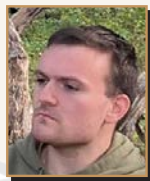
Senior Spotlight



Aidan Bousquet '25

Hailing from the beautiful Caribbean island of St. Lucia, I joined Theta Chi to grow socially, in responsibility, and in camaraderie. I am thankful

that I was able to learn all these things within this community. From fixing the roof to participating in this past rush, we as a class have accomplished much in these past four years. I will be graduating with a bachelor's degree in biological engineering and plan to take one or two gap years to do some more research before beginning a PhD program. If you ever feel like visiting any Caribbean island, feel free to reach out!



Alexander Edwards '25

Hailing from Madison, Alabama, Alex Edwards is graduating this spring with a double major in nuclear and mechanical engineering.

Over his time at the Beta Chapter, he improved the house by being a major contributor to the refurbishing of the roof deck and the repainting of Pink's door (fifth floor large) to a hot "atomic pink" color to cement himself and his junior year roommate **Ian Morris** as nuke majors into the history of the house. Alex will be commissioned into the Army cyber reserves the day before graduation, continuing the house's history with the military and ROTC. As he graduates, he hopes to design nuclear systems to power the future.



Kaden Silva '25

Hi, I'm Kaden Silva from Salem, Massachusetts. I'm graduating this spring with a bachelor's degree in business analytics with a concentration in

music. My goal is to work in the music industry, helping artists share their music with the world. During my time in the house, I'm proud to have served as vice president of health and safety, as well as serving as the brotherhood and community service chair. As VPHS, I focused on maintaining the health and safety of our chapter. As the community service chair, I introduced the Lift-a-Thon charity event (more on that in another article). And as brotherhood chair, I strived to make these years some of the most memorable of our lives.



Robert T. Brady '62: I'm about to be 84. I retired from Moog Inc. 10 years ago. I'm still a director of two public companies: M&T Bank and Astronics. My wife and I have been married 56 years, and we still like each other. We have three "square away" kids and five brilliant and beautiful grandchildren! (All grandchildren are brilliant and beautiful.) We live in Palm Desert in winter and Jackson Hole in summer. We both play golf. This year I'm hoping to shoot my age. I headed an international company for 23 years. I am a globalist. Anyone who is not should get a passport and look around. All the Best, Bob.

Terrance A. Chinn '65: My wife and I are attending a new local church about ten minutes away. The fellowship we have with our Christian brothers reminds me of what I shared with my pledge class and big brother (**Lou Thompson**) back in 1961-62.

Roy T. Lydon Jr. '73: Retired from Raytheon in 2018. I spend time in Bermuda and Cape Cod with my wife Mary Paula. Have four children and 11 grandchildren (ages 5-16). I keep in touch with fellow 1973s **Dennis Intravia**, **Wes Grandmont**, **Bill Billing**. PS: hello to **Bob Ferrara '67**.

Additional Reflections and Comments

by **Greg Wilson** and **Charles Wilson**

Email from Greg Wilson (January 14, 2025)

This is very sad news about JT. I have been staying in contact with JT, and he informed me of his health challenges in late 2023. His wife Jane had set up an account on CaringBridge.org, a way to keep family and friends aware of serious health issues for loved ones. After his diagnosis of adrenocortical carcinoma, a very rare form of cancer, he began chemo and blood transfusion treatments in November 2023. Initially expecting four rounds, his treatment was extended to six and then eight rounds. This accomplished the objective of shrinking the very large tumor that had been discovered.

In March 2024, he went to MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston for a consultation with leading doctors in this field, and they gave him the good news that the tumor had shrunk enough to be surgically removed. The surgery took place on June 3, 2024, and the team believed they had removed all of the tumor. They also had to remove one of his kidneys and repair a section of the main blood vessel from the heart. Due to some post-operative complications, JT had to remain in the hospital for about two weeks after the operation before returning home to Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, by late August, they discovered that the cancer had spread to one of his ribs, with some evidence of additional spread. A new round of treatment was initiated involving radiation, oral chemotherapy, and an immunotherapy drug. By mid October, further complications developed, the chemo was paused, and he was admitted to Penn State Medical Center, where his condition deteriorated quickly. On November 18, 2024, his family decided to place him in hospice care, and he passed away the following day.

After receiving the tragic news, I sent out a note to all of my remaining pledge brothers (class of '79), along with other Theta Chi members with whom I keep in contact. JT is now the fourth person in my 11-person pledge class to pass away. **Doug Wegner** passed away at least 10 years ago possibly from a heart attack while exercising in the Phoenix area. Then **John Helferich** passed away while in DC at a conference due to a brain aneurysm. **Tom Jones** passed away in April 2012, according to Theta Chi National (I believe they received notice on returned mail that he was deceased). Two of my pledge brothers,

Earl Loftfield (who dropped out freshman year) and **Jack Robinson**, have been out of touch for decades. That leaves just five of us: **Rick Bryant**, **Hank Rappaport**, **Tom Smith**, **Jeff Yorsz**, and me. It truly sucks getting old.

As you pointed out, JT remained very involved with Theta Chi after graduation, serving as a regional counselor and on the Norwich Housing Corporation (formerly known as the National Board of Trustees during our undergraduate years). When Theta Chi National moved its headquarters from New Jersey to Indianapolis, JT's architectural firm designed the building. I have many fond memories of JT, who was one of the most reliable and responsible people I have ever met. I recall a work week at his house (probably in 1977 or 1978) when we decided to replace the kitchen cabinet by the back window. JT, using his architectural design skills, designed a new cabinet and countertop so sturdy that we nicknamed it the "bomb shelter": a piece that, in my mind, could be the only thing left standing in the Back Bay in the event of a nuclear strike on Boston.

I also remember another time in the winter of 1980-81, after both of us had graduated. JT, who was living in Pittsburgh at the time, called me during my six-month training assignment at the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory with the US Navy. He told me that he and his wife, high school sweetheart Karen, had just broken up. I immediately went to his doorstep with a case of Iron City Beer and some bags of snacks. We stayed up all night talking. He mentioned that he had met a nice woman in the laundry room of his apartment building, and about a year later, they married and had two children together. I will always remember JT as a person whose time on this planet was far too short.

Thanks for the opportunity to remember JT and for keeping everyone in the loop, Campy. I know you have devoted much time to Theta Chi over the decades since we graduated.

Greg Wilson '79, AKA Admiral, Cell: 925-324-9734, Home: 925-299-1331
Charles Wilson '80

Hopefully, this message reaches the beneficiaries of some of his projects, including the new chapter house he designed for the Theta Chi chapter at Georgia Tech.



Chapter Eternal

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

Tracy Smith Jr. '42
10-12-2024

William R. Kincaid '49
August 6, 2023

David J. Richardson '60
October 1, 2024

Zdenek Bocek '72
October 15, 2022

James R. Thompson '79
November 19, 2024

Dear Theta Chi Fraternity,

My father, **Zdenek Bocek**, was part of your fraternity in the '70s. He went to MIT, and he won the ice hockey championship for the fraternity. Unfortunately, he passed away on October 15, 2022. He is buried at the cemetery in the little village of Mala Skála in the Czech Republic.

Thank you for thinking of him,
Zdenek Andrew Bocek