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Spring 2010 Issue



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**Greetings!** *Chris Peters, AE '10, and Adam Tourgee, AZ '11*

For those of you who have traveled near and far to join us this weekend, we would like to thank you for coming! This year's Elder Banquet celebrates the 31 years of our chapter's existence. We hope that this weekend reminds you of the great times you've had here and that your visit adds another memory to that list. Our annual reunion reminds us that Zeta Psi is not merely an extra-curricular activity, but an experience that stays with us for the rest of our lives. In addition to reminiscing with your pledge brothers, we encourage all of you to get to know the current actives of the house because Zeta Psi's membership is al-

ways growing with some of MIT's finest student's. Get to know the funny stories of the year, and what the brothers are up to these days.

In TKΦ,  
Chris Peters, AE '10 &  
Adam Tourgee, AZ '11

For those of you who can't make it to the banquet this year, we hope you still connect with the house in other ways. Brothers in the area are always welcome to stop by, whether it be a weekend or during the school day. Look forward to the occasional Elder updates from our new Alpha Sigma and stay in touch with current actives. We hope you can make it to Elder Banquets in future years and remember to stay in touch.



**2010 Elder Banquet Chairs**  
Chris Peters and Adam Tourgee

**The Semester in Review** *Michael Gerhardt, AH '12*

Hello and welcome to our 31st annual Elder Banquet! I'm Mike Gerhardt, the Alpha Sigma for this year. I am proud to report that the Zeta Psi house is not only still standing, but thriving. This January, we initiated sixteen new brothers as the Alpha Theta pledge class and celebrated the opening of their pledge project, "Escher". I encourage you to get to know these fine men. It has been a pleasure to be involved in their Rush and pledge period as a sophomore.

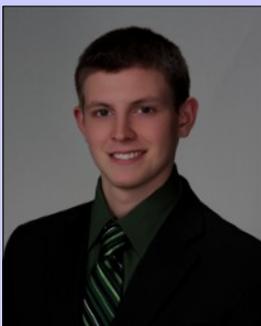
saved the house hundreds of dollars by making trips to Costco every two or three weeks. House manager Matthew Pegler, AZ '11, continues to set the bar high as house manager, organizing important plumbing and electrical work, while also researching our chapter's history through meeting minutes and other documents as the newly elected Delta. Tommy Anderson, AΘ '13, was elected Sigma as a freshman and entertains the house with weekly caption contests.

tion with the elders. As undergraduates, we tend to get wrapped up in our studies and neglect our elder brothers. I feel that the Zeta Psi brotherhood should not be constrained to a four-year time period. I encourage you to get to meet our new pledge class and keep in touch, so that the bonds of TKΦ may remain forever strong.

The newly elected officers have also taken initiative with their positions. As the new steward, Mark Thompson, AH '11, has

As the Alpha Sigma elected for this term, I have been working towards improving communica-

In TKΦ,  
Mike "Patrick" Gerhardt  
AH '12



**“In a mere three decades our fraternity has grown into a prominent force on the MIT campus...”**

## Words of the Phi *Kyle Fink, AZ '11*

Dear Brothers and Elders,

First of all, let me say how great of an honor it is to welcome our chapter's Elders back to Rho Alpha for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Elder Banquet. As I reach the end of my third year here at Zeta Psi, I can easily say that this is one of the most highly anticipated weekends of the year. I hope that all of you have a great time and will be as pleased with the state of the house as I am proud to be serving as Phi of this great chapter.

Next I would like to recognize Christopher Peters (AE '10) for his outstanding job as Phi for the previous term. It is because of his hard work that I am able to say how proud I am to be the leader of this great fraternity. Over the past year Rho Alpha has continually grown in the strength of its brotherhood as well as its reputation on campus and is in perfect position to continue this trend for years to come. My time as Phi is almost half over, but fortunately for me I've had a lot of support and my only regret is that this term has gone by so quickly.

To take a moment to introduce myself, my name is Kyle Fink. I am a junior majoring in Civil Engineering and a proud member of the Alpha Zeta pledge class. I come from a small town in Michigan where I have lived my entire life. I am an only child who has been lucky enough to find a group of brothers here at Rho Alpha chapter of Zeta Psi. Since joining the brotherhood I have served as Sigma, Alpha Phi, Community Service Chair and now Phi. Over the past few years I have seen this house grow a great deal. I wish to continue this tradition to ensure that every brother gets the most out of his time here and

becomes the best man he can be.

The end of January marked the initiation of our newest pledge class, the Alpha Thetas. The addition of 16 new brothers to our fraternity has been nothing short of rejuvenating. After a long and eventful pledge period the Alpha Thetas have certainly earned their titles as brothers and are already establishing themselves as prominent members of our chapter. From hanging out in "Escher", their pledge project room, to being appointed to numerous chairs, committees and the position of Sigma (Thomas Anderson, Aθ '13), the Thetas are here to stay. We look forward to seeing their future contributions to Zeta Psi.

As I have already said, campus reputation is very high for Rho Alpha. For the fifth straight year, a brother of Zeta Psi has earned a position as Orientation Coordinator (Chijoke Okeke AH '12). We will also have ten Orientation Leaders, more than any other house on campus, plus a few brothers will be counseling Freshman Pre-Orientation Programs, making next fall's rush very promising. Zeta Psi has also recently performed in AXΩ's annual Lip Sync and had a representative (Michael Harradon, Aθ '13) in AΦ's King of Hearts Competition. It's great to see Zetes involved in nearly every aspect of campus life, ranging from Lacrosse to Symphony Orchestra.

Our social scene is as good as ever. Our parties are the largest I have ever seen them and bringing in guests from BU, BC, Simmons, Northeastern, Wellesley, and of course MIT. Every party has been a full

house and lines have been forming earlier and earlier each time. After a week of hard work, the brothers of Zeta Psi still know how to have fun and nearly every weekend has a social gathering of some scale. While our social scene may be improving, we haven't lost sight of why we are here. For the first time since the Fall '06 and for only the second time since the start of the program, Zeta Psi has earned a position on the FSILG Honor Roll. We are currently ranked 7<sup>th</sup> among all of the fraternities in GPA, a number we look to improve upon further in the coming semesters. Zeta Psi brothers have also given back to the Cambridge community, raising money for the Relay for Life fundraiser for cancer research, held at Harvard Stadium.

In a mere three decades our fraternity has grown into a prominent force on the MIT campus, no small feat considering that some of the other twenty five fraternities on campus have been around for over a century. Zetes have strived for excellence since their arrival at MIT and through brother involvement and elder support there is no doubt we will continue to do so for another thirty years. In these tough financial times the bonds of Tau Kappa Phi remain as strong as ever, especially here at Rho Alpha. Thank you to all of you who have contributed or are considering contributing to the fraternity. Every little bit helps us to become a better fraternity and none of this would be possible if it wasn't for you.

Always in TKΦ,  
Kyle "Whiskers" Fink, AZ '11

## The House Still Stands *Matt Pegler, AZ '11*

Our beloved house is starting to show the wear of almost 30 years of abuse by Zetes.

Appliances are starting to fail, the couches are tattered, and the dining room tables and chairs are cracked and splintered. But the actives are taking an aggressive attitude in repairing the house.

One of the major issues the house has faced over the past few years was roof leakage at any sign of rain. In working with the Elder Corporation, FCI, and MIT Real Estate, we have finally gotten our management company to agree to replace our roof during the summer of 2010. Before, it came to a point where we wouldn't bother fixing water-damaged paint or ceiling tiles, but that will soon change.

The Elder Corporation has been a huge help in replacing some of our bigger appliances in the house. In September of last year, we were able to purchase two new washers with their help. This was a great improvement over the single working washer we had at the end of the previous semester. Additionally, about two years ago we had our industrial fridges and freezer in the kitchen serviced. In doing so, we replaced several of the compressors and resealed the doors. Finally, this semester we are working to replace our two

failing freezers on the first floor with newer commercial models.

This summer, our second floor commons, as well as the main stairs, entry way, and possibly the bar will be getting a full face lift. This is being made possible by the generosity of the family of Charles Barr, AΘ '13. We are going to be installing new carpet, all new molding, repainting, installing new lighting, replacing all the couches, and adding some tables to the area. We will be sure to update everyone with photos after the project has been completed.

Our dining room has been slowly improved over the past year. All the tables have been completely rebuilt. This project was headed by Bennett Wilson, AH '12, and Conor O'Rourke, AH '11. Also, the floor has been completely refinished and art added to the area.

Finally, our house has been brought up to date in terms of technology. This past summer, MIT installed a brand new computer network in the house. Our network closet now has a full height rack with enterprise class routers, switches, and access points. The entire house also has complete wireless N penetration.

We hope you'll enjoy your visit, and come back soon to check out our new commons!



Above: Some Alpha Thetas work on their pledge project, "Escher", formerly known as "007". From Left: Tommy Anderson '13, Charles Barr '13, and Chris Gerber '13.

Below: Conor O'Rourke AH '11 and Bennett Wilson AH '12 work on the dining room tables.



## The State of Social Affairs *Michael Harradon, AΘ '13*

This past semester has been very successful for Rho Alpha in terms of social activity. We've thrown three successful parties, all of them held on the second floor. Furthermore, these parties have been an especially big hit with students both on and off MIT's campus. This has largely been the result of a transition to fully live DJ-ing as promoted by Michael Harradon, AΘ '13 and current co-Social Chair.

Our sound system blasts the latest and greatest in dance and pop hits and pulls huge crowds. The MTV, BET and CMT party held in mid-April saw crowds that for periods of time entirely filled the second floor commons. Rho Alpha currently stands on the cusp of an excellent future in terms of parties, as the combination of great mixing and high tech visual displays clearly makes the Zeta

Psi house the superior venue among other fraternities on campus.

In addition to throwing parties, the brothers of the Rho Alpha chapter have been working hard to improve their relations on campus. Events such as King of Hearts and the AXΩ Lip Sync have enabled Zetes to demonstrate their skill and

talent to the entire MIT community. Hopefully by continuing this streak of campus involvement Rho Alpha will be able to put itself into a highly favorable position among the MIT administration and the Interfraternity Council.

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Check out our new and improved website!  
<http://zetapsi.mit.edu>

## Greek Letter Officers - 2010



Φ  
Kyle Fink  
AZ '11



ΑΦ  
Stuart Bermack  
AZ '11



Σ  
Thomas Anderson  
AΘ '13



ΑΣ  
Michael Gerhardt  
AH '12



Γ  
Bryan Landman  
AZ '11



ΣΡ  
Adam Tourgee  
AZ '11



Δ  
Matthew Pegler  
AZ '11

## Zetes On Campus

- Zeta Psi intramural athletics teams have a combined 41 wins, 32 losses, and 3 ties since the start of the Winter season. Our Volleyball C, Softball C, and Ultimate Frisbee C teams currently lead their respective leagues.
- Jason Strauss, AH '12, was selected to MIT's team of comedians in the National College Comedy Competition and won their first-round vote-off against Boston College.
- Jon Estrada, AZ '11, Ethan Bates, AE '10, Richard Bates, AE '10, and Mike Gerhardt, AH '12, took second place in MIT's Making and Designing Materials Engineering Competition (MADMEC), winning \$3000 for an innovative biogas scrubbing mechanism.
- Four Zetes compete on MIT's varsity lacrosse team. Chris Rullan, AΘ '13, won MIT COOP Athlete of the Week after posting a .739 save percentage and 17 saves in two games, both of which MIT won.
- Adam Tourgee, AZ '11, Chip Whittemore, AH '12, Mark Thompson, AH '11, and Mike Leaman, AH '12, joined MIT's Design, Build, Fly competition and represented MIT at the national level in Arizona last summer.
- Castle Bravo, the band composed of Ethan and Richard Bates, Jon Estrada, and David Chester, AH '12, performed in MIT's Battle of the Bands during Campus Preview Weekend. They recently recorded a new song. Listen in at [castlebravo.mit.edu](http://castlebravo.mit.edu).
- Other Zetes are involved in the arts at MIT as well. Jesse Triplett, AΘ '13, recently performed in MIT's production of *Arms and the Man* in Kresge Auditorium.



The Zeta Psi IM Hockey team, which took first place in C League this past season, poses after a game.