“I have been in Paris for the summer working in a microfluidics lab at École Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie Industrielles de la Ville de Paris (translates roughly to the School of Industrial Physics and Chemistry), which is where Pierre and Marie Curie did their Nobel Prize work. I’m working on miniaturizing certain biological experiments so that everything can be done on a single microscope slide, which is the concept of “lab-on-a-chip” technology. In the meantime, I’ve done a lot of traveling to other European countries (Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy) on the weekends with other AXOs, including Anya Shafiro ’10, Emily Houston ’10, and Ploy Srivali ’10.”

-Yuri Hanada ’10

“This Summer I worked at Summerbridge Cambridge, which is a summer program for middle school students. I loved my job! The staff is made up of high school and college students who teach either science, social studies, math, or literature. Science and social studies teachers put their own spins on their classes. I taught science and my class was “The Science of Cooking and Nutrition.” It was a lot of fun! We have classes in the morning, and various activities in the afternoon, including Dare to Care Day. On Dare to Care day we went to service sites all over Boston and Cambridge. My group went to the Neville Center in Cambridge and spent time with the senior citizens there. It was so cool to see the kids interacting with the residents and just absolutely loving their stories! This job has challenged me in so many ways and I am truly grateful as it has definitely made me a better person.”

-Katie Thomas ’10

For Dare to Care Day, Katie Thomas ’10 and her students at Summerbridge visited the Neville Center in Cambridge, MA to spend time with senior citizens.
Sister Spotlight

What is your major? Environmental Engineering
Where are you from? Omaha, Nebraska
Do you have hobbies that get you away from MIT work? I love to read, be a tourist in Boston, and attempt to maintain a regular exercise schedule.

What are your plans after MIT? I’m currently applying to grad schools—I’d like to get my Master’s Degree in Environmental Engineering, but who knows where I’ll end up.

What other positions have you served in AXO? Sophomore year and Junior year I was our pledge class representative on the Chapter Relations and Standards Board. I was the Chapter Recruitment Information Chair (CRIC) in the Fall of 2007. My job was to teach the chapter about our recruitment process. Then last January I assumed the role of Chapter President.

What was the most time-consuming position? Being the Chapter President has by far been the most time-consuming role. Some days I feel like I spend the whole day on the phone or sending emails trying to get things done and answer peoples’ questions.

Which position was most fun? Being President has also been the most enjoyable position. Part of the fun is waking up every morning not knowing exactly what’s going to be thrown my way that day. It’s also very rewarding to see events go smoothly, to see our chapter win Panhellenic and National awards, and to be a part of an organization of such strong women.

Is there a particular sister within AXO that greatly influenced you throughout your years in a sorority? Wen-fai Fong ’08 was the person who encouraged me to run for CRIC. Wen-fai was supportive and encouraging through both the election process and my time serving as CRIC. This really helped build my confidence and inspired me to become more involved in the chapter. Ellen Sojka ’08 was the sister that convinced me I would serve the chapter well by running for president.

When did you realize joining AXO was ‘the best decision’? Was there a particular moment that really touched you? Joining AXO has wholeheartedly been the best decision I’ve made at MIT, but I didn’t realize that until halfway through my sophomore year. I’m not an extroverted person and it takes me a little bit to warm up to people, so it wasn’t until a year after I was initiated into Alpha Chi that I really found my niche in the chapter. The moment that has touched me most in Alpha Chi occurred in the spring of my sophomore year, when I was giving a presentation at the 2009 Ring Premiere. All of the Alpha Chi ’09s were in the front row of the audience, holding up signs with my name on them and cheering wildly. It was amazing to know I had so much support from my pledge class.

What is your favorite AXO event? My favorite AXO event is always Fondue open house because during faculty hour (the first hour of the event) I get the opportunity to see my professors outside of the lecture hall. They usually bring their spouses and children and get a glimpse into our lives. Most professors know little about MIT sororities, but after the event we always get several emails from professors across campus that are filled with gratitude and encouragement towards our organization.

What are some of your duties, and how do you balance these responsibilities with work, psets, etc? My duties are really varied throughout the year. First and foremost, I plan and run our weekly chapter meetings and weekly executive meetings. I am in continual contact with AXO Headquarters, I am expected to be at our House Corporation meetings, and maintain close contact with MIT Panhellenic. I also do the things that come up every once in a while like hiring a new RA or attending our National Convention. What perhaps takes the most time is helping other people with elected positions in AXO when they fall behind and making sure the day-of logistics of our events are running smoothly. AXO has become my first priority—if a sister calls with a concern or a request, I try to handle that immediately. My psets always get done, mainly because they have to. I guess what makes balancing my time easier is the fact that I don’t see AXO as an obligation. I’ve gotten so much out of the chapter which inspires me to make the chapter stronger for the years to come.

What is your executive board like? Do you feel like a family? Do you all have a good work dynamic? I really enjoy working with my executive board. Last semester, we held meetings on Thursday nights, and I would always look forward to ending my week with 12 people that I could work well with, yet have so much fun with at the same time. I have to say they’re a little loud at times because they all love to talk, but it’s helpful that they all contribute their opinions and ideas openly. I think we work well as a team because we help each other out with our duties and with event planning.

-Amy Gilpin ’09, President
In-House Mixers

On August 29, 2008, we held a “door sign making” mixer for the chapter at the Baker Dining facility. The idea was to recreate the look of our badges in the form of lyre-shaped decorations with our names on them for our doors. About 20 sisters came to participate even though it was our “free day” and other activities were taking place. All the sisters that came had a fantastic time eating cookies, drinking passion fruit juice, and listening to a mix of music ranging from oldies to today’s top hits. Everyone mastered the art of cardboard-cutting and got to design their dream lyre with all kinds of art supplies. Now, they proudly hang on their respective doors. We plan on having another mixer so the sisters that were not able to attend the first one will still have the opportunity to get their own lyre-shaped door sign, because they turned out awesome!

-Ingrid Chaires ’11 & Joanna Faulk ’11, Social Chairs

Recruitment

There is no better way to start the school year at MIT than by spending time with your Alpha Chi sisters! For the past two weeks, your daughters have dedicated their time and energy to bond week and recruitment. Throughout bond week, sisters learn how to recruit our incoming pledge class based on our membership criteria and values as an organization. The communication skills that are developed and honed throughout the week are not only beneficial for recruitment, but also for interviews and networking after college. More importantly however, is the sisterhood bonding that occurs during that time. Bond Week is the perfect time to catch up with a sister and even get to know some better. This year, we made sure to keep the energy high throughout the week with Olympic themed mottos and pump-up music at the start of every day.

The official recruitment period is five days leading up to the first day of classes and culminates in the distribution of bids which are formal invitations for the prospective members to join our sorority. Our sisters were well prepared for recruitment this year, and the amazing new member class is a testament to the fantastic spirit, positive attitude, and dedication of each Alpha Chi.

Our newest class is complete with 33 of the most fantastic women at the institute who are interested in everything, from robotics to crafts to fencing. We trust that their MIT experience will be enhanced by their membership in Alpha Chi Omega.

It was our pleasure leading Team Alpha Chi (as we like to call it) to yet another successful and enjoyable bond week and recruitment experience. Thank you for allowing your daughters to be a part of this phenomenal sisterhood and for letting them return to school two weeks early—it has been a wonderful start to the school year!

-Amy Brazin ’09, VP Recruitment, & Emily Houston ’10, CRIC
The weekend of July 11th, Sha-har Admoni, Vice President of Fraternity Relations, and I traveled to Scottsdale, Arizona for Alpha Chi Omega’s 55th National Convention. Chapter presidents, chapter advisors, and Alpha Chi alumnae from around the country gathered for 3 days to reconnect and conduct national business. The highlight of the weekend was the election of the National Council, a board of 6 members that oversee the fraternity. For the past 4 years, Katy Evanco Brown, a ’93 MIT graduate and alumnae member of our chapter, has served on the National Council. Unfortunately, she was not reelected, but Sha-har and I were able to meet her and talk about her MIT experience and her experiences within Alpha Chi beyond college. We also met Marni Zarin ’98, an alumnae member of our chapter, who now serves on the National House Corporation Board. Sixteen national awards are given out at Convention, and our chapter was honored to receive two of these awards—one for Campus Leadership and one for Intellectual Development. It was incredibly gratifying to be recognized at the national level for the hard work and involvement that each of our sisters display.

-Amy Gilpin ’09, AXO President
**Upcoming Events...**

**Sophomore SemiFormal**

Alpha Chi Omega is proud to present its annual Sophomore Semi-formal My Tie event. With each blind date perfectly hand selected by fellow sisters through our interactive website, the traditional awkwardness of blind dates is sure to be alleviated. Upon meeting their blind dates at our beautiful house in Kenmore Square, everyone will head to the play, ‘How Shakespeare Won the West’, as performed by the Huntington Theatre Company. After the play, sisters will enjoy delectable desserts courtesy of Modern Pastries at the house, accompanied by dancing and other entertainment afterwards. The Sophomore Semi-formal is the perfect start of a new year for both sisters and new members to bond over a fun, classy event.

- Jenny Chan ’11

**Domestic Violence Awareness Week**

Domestic Violence Awareness is Alpha Chi Omega’s philanthropic focus nation-wide, and the Theta-Omicron chapter is committed to serving this issue year-round. We assist the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) by raising money and volunteering for their events. This year, we will have Domestic Violence Awareness week from Monday, Oct. 6th—Friday, Oct. 10th, concluded by an MIT-Community Picnic on Friday, Oct. 10th to share the eye-opening facts of rape and sexual assault and to answer any questions that may arise.

- Britni Ihle ’11

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**Congratulations to the new 2008 Pledge Class!**

Kimee Boonbanjerdsri, Sandra Chen, Jane Chen-Liang, Kaitlyn Creasy, Robin Dahan, Katie Dalrymple, Meghan Dow, Sara Drakeley, Ana Escalante, Julie Harrow, Alex Ji-ang, Sooyeon Jeong, Alicia Kaestli, Katie Kaufman, Cynthia Latortue, Joann Lin, Maddie Mirzoeff, Viral Modi, Stephanie Moran, Jessica Perez, Renuka Ramanathan, Deeja Rao, Claudia Richardson, Lauren Rodda, Anne Runkle, Alina Rwei, Robin Shin, Lauren Sless, Dordy Sugano, Amber Stangroom, Shireen Warnock, Lizzy Wei, Lingyi Zhang

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**House Cleaning**

It is tradition that on the first day of Bond Week (the week for preparation for Recruitment), we gather all sisters, big and small, crippled and athletic, regardless of cleaning experience, and we scrub the house from top down. This year we had almost every sister and we cleaned the house in a record 4.5 hours. We cleaned every dish, we scrubbed every toilet, we hung three composities along the stairs, and we polished the wood along every wall. Kashika, ’09, stood on the window sills to get the outside of every window clean. Doria Holbrook, ’08, purchased full body suit coveralls and handed them out to girls throughout the day as part of a competition for most ridiculous outfit. Overall, the day was an extreme success.

- Libby Palmer ’09, House Manager

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**Under Construction**

For the next couple of months, the AXO Mansion will be under construction. D&A Construction is redoing our third floor antique bathroom in hopes that no more shampoo bottles will be found in the drain, the toilet will not overflow on a daily bases, and the sinks will actually have both hot and cold water. The construction will continue through October, but in the end we will have a bathroom with as many of the same details as possible. The plans have one toilet enclosed in its own room, two large sinks, and two shower stalls for the 9 girls who use that bathroom to use. It will be a great improvement to our house. The bathroom, while it is our biggest project, is not our only project. We have also just purchased beautiful glass tops for our tables. We are in the middle of installing two new dryers to replace the one that broke. Our large projection screen television has been fixed and tivo is working well. Several other smaller projects are coming together as we work to pass our inspections this year.

- Libby Palmer ’09, House Manager

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This Newsletter was designed in Adobe Indesign CS3 (c) Adobe 2008 by Britni Ihle ‘11 & Amanda Grue ‘11.