Recent official news:

- LIPSYNC is Friday April 24th in Johnson, the Friday of Spring Weekend
- ALUMNAE WEEKEND IS APRIL 24TH-26TH
- New officers installed:
  - President: Margaret Leibovic
  - VP CRS: Ashley Pinchinat
  - VP Finance: Emily Shao VP
  - VP Education: Lauren Cipicchio
  - VP ID: Katelyn Snyder
  - VP Mem Dev: Nicole Holm
  - VP Communication: Jenny Chan
  - Panhel Delegate: Grace Yao
  - VP Risk: Amanda Fried
  - VP Frat Rel: JiHye Kim
  - VP Rec.- Katie Thomas
  - Alumnae Relations: Carrie DeBoer
  - Ho Man- Amy Leung

Exciting News:

If you open up the latest issue of the Lyre, you'll find a little blurb about our chapter and the award we won from BARCC. This is something for us to be really proud about!

Reminder:

Come join us at the AXO mansion for dinner Sunday-Thursday at 6 pm! Email steward Juliana Rotter, rotter@mit.edu, if you’re interested!

A Letter from the New President:

Hi All,
I’m Margaret Leibovic, 2009 Chapter President. I’m course 6-3, computer science and engineering, and I’m hoping to do something with web development when I graduate. I’ve already worked on cool web applications at a UROP and an internship at IBM, and I’m the sister who was in charge of revamping our Theta Omicron chapter website. Last year I was our chapter’s VP Communications, and I’m excited to take on more leadership responsibilities as Chapter President. This past Sunday our exec board had a retreat at the MIT

Anne Shen ’11 and President
Margaret Leibovic ’10 during CPW ’08
Endicott House, where we discussed ways to improve our chapter and set goals for the coming year. Our main goals are to increase the level of involvement of sisters in our chapter, to increase appreciation for our ritual, and to make the finances of our chapter more transparent. At the retreat we also played games, ate lots of delicious food, and really had the chance to bond. This year’s exec board is off to a great start, and I’m excited to see what we can do as the year progresses. I was able to meet some of you last fall during our Alumnae Brunch, but I hope that I’m able to meet many more of you during Alumnae Weekend and other chapter events this year!

Loyally,
Margaret Leibovic

Letter from ME (VP Alumnae Relations):

Dear Alumnae,

Hi! I’m your new VP Alumnae Relations, Carrie DeBoer. This is my first Alumnae Newsletter, so I thought I should introduce myself to you. First of all, I LOVE Alumnae. Basically, my sister, Jennifer DeBoer, graduated in 2005 as an AXO, so I really do have relations already with an alumna. I am a sophomore in Course 9- Brain and Cognitive Sciences, and am studying Pre-Med as well. I live in Bexley and am on the Varsity Swimming and Diving team as well as the Club Water Polo team. My UROP is in Emilio Bizzi’s lab, and I am studying post-stroke motor recovery in rats. I love macaroni and cheese and listening to boy bands of the 90s, especially *NSYNC.

AXO is a really big part of my life. From sitting in the student center at Couch Crew to baking cookies and cakes at the house, I love being with my sisters. I have found my best friend in AXO and other friends that I hope will remain even when I become an alumna. I really look forward to learning about you and about the wonderful things that AXO alumnae are doing in the world right now. One new idea I hope to create is a newsletter informing actives about all of the awesome things that the alumna are doing. Right now, we have sort of a one way mode of communication where I send YOU stuff about actives, but I think the active sisters would also love to hear about what you are up to. I can’t wait to become more involved with Alumnae Relations this semester!

LITB,
Carrie

L to R: Katelyn Snyder ’11, Amy Jacobi ’11 and Carrie DeBoer ’11 acting as Butlers during Round 3 of Recruitment
**SISTER SPOTLIGHT:**

**Sam Fox’s (’10) Brazilian Adventure**

I spent my IAP doing an externship for a civil engineering company, Figueiredo Ferraz, in São Paulo, Brazil. I worked with tunnels, bridges, dams, drainage, and water sanitation; basically everything that has to do with civil and environmental engineering. About half the time I was working with a team where no one spoke English, and since my Portuguese skills are lacking, it was an entertaining time trying to communicate. I learned about how what I’m doing in class relates to the real world, which was nice because I was convinced that some of the topics I learned were completely useless. It turns out that they are in fact quite useful, and I should pay better attention in class. As both an environmental engineer, and an environmentalist, it was nice to see that the company would take the environmental impacts of their projects into consideration and try to lessen the intensity of them. This was one of the most amazing experiences I have ever had, and I can’t wait to return to Brazil.

*Sam Fox ’10 (right) working in Brazil this IAP*

**Manvi Goel (’10) and her Trip to Mexico**

This IAP, I traveled to Mexico to work on an independent business project involving a new way of financing for emerging entrepreneurs. I was able to get funding for the trip from the MIT Legatum Entrepreneurship Center and the MIT Public Service Center. My project aims to connect investors in the US to small-to-medium sized businesses in the developing world through an investment (or equity) based relationship. During the month, I stayed in Mexico City for three weeks and in Chiapas for a week. The purpose of my trip was to learn about the microfinance climate in Mexico by interviewing various microfinance institutions (MFIs) and other non-profits that service entrepreneurs. In the process, I met some extraordinary people – directors of MFIs, students, and business professionals – and was able to foster lasting partnerships with them; I hope to have at least 5-7 of the companies I visited join me in a pilot study this following year.

Every day was a new adventure – some days involved getting lost in a strange corner of Mexico City, relying on little Spanish and local taxi drivers to help me get around, while other days involved going to the outskirts of the City to climb the ancient pyramids of Teotihuacan. I think the biggest lesson I learned from my experience was...
how to communicate affectively with a varied audience. I will take back a lot of memories from this trip and hope to go back sometime this summer.

Amy Jacobi’s Puerto Rican IAP

Carrie DeBoer ’11, Katie Creasey ’11, Ashley Pinchinat ’10, and I (Amy Jacobi ’11) spent this IAP swimming our butts off in both sunny Puerto Rico and the chilly Z-Center pool. Meanwhile Kristin Uhmeyer ’09 and Lauren Cippichio ’10 trained hard and learned some new dives for NEWMAC championships at the end of February. Puerto Rico with the swim team was a blast. We all got tan (or burnt) and got closer to our teammates due to our inability to escape from each other. We celebrated the New Year in Spanish, and sat in the hot tub during a torrential downpour. The return to snowy Boston was rough, but we survived the 3 more weeks of intense practices, while we made a lot of memories and swam a LOT of yards (or did a LOT of flips and twists) along the way.

Yuri Hanada’s (’10) Visionary IAP in Ghana:

This IAP, I spent just under three weeks in Ghana through the Unite for Sight International Volunteer Program. I was formally accepted in November, and before my departure in January, I took the time to learn much about eye health and diseases in general, health care in developing countries, and how non-profits are structured and develop their mission. I also shadowed an ophthalmologist in Kendall Square to get a better idea of how eye doctors screen for diseases.

When I arrived in Accra, I met with four other Unite for Sight student volunteers, including a cinematographer, who traveled twelve hours by truck up to the Northern Region of Ghana with me. We were based in the Savelugu District and worked with Dr.
Thomas Baah, one of the Region's two ophthalmologists who provides care for over 2 million people. Dr. Baah recently started Ghana's newest eye clinic, which focuses on outreach programs in rural villages, so the Unite for Sight volunteers joined his team of 25+ Ghanaian ophthalmic nurses, optometrists, and student volunteers. From Savelugu, we traveled to rural villages every day to screen patients, testing their visual acuity and providing low-cost medications. Patients blinded by cataracts, glaucoma, or trachoma received free surgery provided for by generous donations to Unite for Sight. Before I left, I had the opportunity to observe Dr. Baah performing surgeries and that day, he completed 40 total, including a couple done on children who were completely blinded by mature cataracts.

My trip to Ghana was one of the best educational and cultural learning experiences I've ever had, and I had a great time (even with the bats, spiders, and lack of running water) working with students passionate about helping others. It helped me to focus my goals for the future and gave me a glimpse of what the international health field is like, which is something I'd be interested in exploring after MIT.