Elise is always thoughtful and so supportive of her sisters! This month in particular, Elise took the initiative to raise money to help buy Julie Harrow ’12 in her Camp Kesem Date Auction. She made sure Julie felt the love and support of her sisters!

MacDowell Month
Celebrating the Fine Arts

MacDowell Month is named after the MacDowell artist colony in New Hampshire, which was AXO’s first philanthropy! This month, four AXOs participated in the Vagina Monologues and sisters went to see the show with alumna Caroline Barker (spring pledge AXO ’05, MIT ’08)! True to our musical and arts background, several AXOs are also in this semester’s production of DanceTroupe, Asian Dance Team and Culture Show. Jeannie Yu ’13 is in all three and an a capella group! AXOs can also be found in MITSO and on MIT’s exclusive dance groups like Mocha Moves and Ridonkulous! Our sisters, such as Vanessa Bowens ’12 and Jessica Bainbridge-Smith (JBS) ’11 even participate in stand-up comedy! I love how diverse and talented our sisters are!

LITB,
Divya
February In Review

**House Cleaning**
We kicked off our Spring semester with Spring House Cleaning! Led by Assistant House Manager, Lauren Sless ’12, our sisters made our house spotless and ready to be shown off!

**Exec Retreat**
This year’s Executive Board Retreat was held in our chapter advisor, Abby Ryan’s, uncle’s home in Cape Cod! The house was beautiful and we discussed our plans for the chapter while cooking lasagna, playing games, eating homemade cupcakes! There were a couple of amusing incidents: we had planned to cook lasagna and sausage for dinner that night, but, upon getting to the house, we realized that we couldn’t find the sausage (and some other groceries) anywhere! We called the AXO house to see if we’d left some bags in the kitchen, but they confirmed we hadn’t. We decided to blame this grumpy man who was watching us load our cars before leaving for Cape Cod--he must have taken our groceries! To remedy our situation, our chapter advisors made a run to the local grocery store and buy the groceries we were missing. A few hours later, just as we were done making dinner, we found the missing grocery bag in one of the rooms in the house. One of the sisters had taken the bag inside with her stuff and forgotten!

In the morning, we went to this amazing, cute breakfast place right down the street and about five people came up to our table to ask us where we were from. I guess seeing so many new faces in such a small town must have surprised and intrigued them! Lastly, just as we were about to leave, we decided to take a picture on the dock right outside the house. Just as we were posing for the picture, one of the dock
stands gave and all of us screamed and held on to one another little girls.

**ALL CHAPTER RETREAT**

This year’s all chapter retreat was Winter Wonderland themed and held on the sixth floor the new MIT Media Lab! At 10:30 AM, Retreat was kicked off with a game of The Big Wind Blows. For those of you that don’t know how to play the game: basically, everyone stands in a circle with someone standing in the middle. The person in the middle yells something about themselves like “the big wind blows if you’ve ridden a camel before!” and if you have, you have to out of your spot and find another one. The person left without a spot stands in the middle and continues the game! It was a great way to learn more about each other and get energized for the rest of retreat!

Next was a review of ritual and our VP Fraternity Relations, Lizzy Wei ’12, did an excellent job of finding creative ways to help all of us remember different parts of the ritual.

Throughout Retreat, we got to know each other better and gave suggestions on how to improve the chapter as a whole. Retreat ended with all of us making snowflakes and eating Christmas tree, snowman and snowflake-shaped sugar cookies!

**Review Continued**

Enjoying each other’s company at Retreat!

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**ALPHA CHI OMEGA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Through the Alpha Chi Omega Scholarship Fund, you can support our undergraduate sisters, particularly those who struggle with the financial responsibility of MIT (and AXO). Many of us have been looking for a way over the years to earmark our MIT donations for our sisters, and, until now, have not been able to do so. We have set a goal to raise $25,000 for the Alpha Chi Omega Scholarship Fund by the end of our reunion celebration in May 2011. We can’t think of a better way to celebrate the past 25 years by investing in the future of Theta Omicron. To donate, please click here - [ALPHA CHI OMEGA SCHOLARSHIP FUND](#).
SISTER SPOTLIGHT:
ALPHA CHI ALUMNAE STORY-TELLING

It was my freshman year spring of 1993 and I had just pledged AXO as a spring recruit and we were headed to that same retreat in Maine that Mary Motto wrote about.

Although I was a freshman, I had a car at MIT - an old Nissan Sentra '85 and we piled into the car and headed out to Maine on an adventure. This was a family car that we bought new 8 year prior and was the car I drove to MIT that previous fall for rush.

Since we were in different cars, I only heard about Mary's gas pump story - but it was a memorable one. I remember the place that we were staying at was deep in the woods and we seemed to drive for miles along a dirt road that was very bumpy. I remember some sisters cars getting stuck in the muddy road that required some rescue towing.

After we arrived and went to leave I realized that my old clunker of a stick shift was not running properly. My clutch had gone out and I was an 18 year old freshman stuck in Maine not knowing what to do.

In any situation like this in the past I ran to my family for help, but my mother was 650 miles away. My brother was a senior at MIT so I called him to help me out. Unfortunately he had other things to do and I was on my own. I felt somewhat angry and abandoned but I didn’t let it stop me.

I was forced to do it on my own. I researched gas stations and garages in the vicinity of this remote area and arranged to have my clutch replaced. A dorm friend drove up to Maine to pick me up and I returned a few weeks later to pick up my car. Apparently I got a great deal compared to Cambridge/Boston garage prices.

This is a memorable AXO moment for me because it taught me that I didn’t need to rely on my mom, my brother, my boyfriend or anyone else to help me. I was fully capable of helping myself. I will never forget that empowering feeling. I know it was just the beginning of what shaped me today!

--SYLVIA CHEN BANK (SPRING PLEDGE ’93/MIT ’96)

This story is part of a series in celebration for the 25th Reunion. Share your own stories in person at the reunion! If you would like your story (or anything else) to be included in the alumnae newsletter, please feel free to email me at divyac@mit.edu!
AXΩ ATHLETICS

Compiled by our Sports Chair, Chelsea Finn’14

During IAP, AXOs competed in Track, Swimming, Rifle, and Fencing:

In Track, Sarah Sprague’13 got 2nd of 7 in the 5000 M Run at the Springfield Invite (and was only 2 seconds away from 1st!!).

In Swimming, the women’s team maintained an undefeated record within NEWMAC, and lost only once to Amherst College! Highlights include: Morganne Klein’14 winning the 200 Breast at both the Colby meet AND the CGA/Springfield meet, Lauren Lo’13 getting 3rd in the 50 Breast at Colby, Sarah Sodel’13 getting 2nd in the 100 Back at the CGA/Springfield and 2nd in the 200 Fly at Tufts, Katie Creasey’11 getting 4th of 34 in the 100 free and 3rd of 21 in the 200 IM at the Wheaton Invite, and Carrie DeBoer’11 getting 3rd in the 200 Free at Wheaton Dual Meet!! Also, pearls to Steph Fung’13 for rocking at breaststroke and pearls to Amy Jacobi’11 for continuing to be an awesome captain for team even though she can't swim!! For the first time in MIT history, the Women’s Swimming Team was also crowned NEWMAC Champions!

In Rifle, Elizabeth Phillips’13 got 3rd in Air Rifle with a score of 559 helping the team to a 2nd place finish at the Bean Pot!!

In Fencing, Robin Shin’13 was 17-1 at the Northeast Fencing Conference, and Ana Escalante’12 won her match at the Eric Sollee Invite!!

AXΩ IN CALIFORNIA

Alumna YeSeul Kim (AXO ’07, MIT ’10) and her big sister Leanne Veldhuis (AXO ’05, MIT ’08) continue to personally develop together, pictured here amidst their adventures in San Francisco.

Byrn Oh hosted a AXO Theta Omricon reunion and potluck for alumnae and their families at her home in La Canada, CA!

Back row: Gwen Johnson, Melia Buyukozturk, Ramona Tung, Anne Louit

Front row: Joy Dunn, Bryn Mowry Oh, Cristina Esmeralda Roussel, Teresa Huang

Swimmer Carrie DeBoer’11 and alumna Ashley Pinchinat’10 at NEWMACs!
ALUMNAE-CURRENT SISTER CONNECTION

ALUMNAE

FROM: VICTORIA FAN
CONTACT: VFAN@ALUM.MIT.EDU
Willing to answer questions about working in global health, public health, and health systems. Complete doctorate in health systems from department of Global Health and Population at Harvard School of Public Health.

ACTIVES

FROM: SANDRA CHEN
CONTACT: SANDBOX@MIT.EDU
Seeking advice from sisters who have created their own start-ups or who have worked with a start-up before or any sister who has an entrepreneurial spirit they like to share their perspective with!

FROM: ANDREA M. GUTIERREZ MARTY
CONTACT: ANDREAGU@MIT.EDU
Looking for a summer UROP of internship in course 5 or 10, close to Boston or in Puerto Rico.

FROM: JOANIE WEAVER
CONTACT: JCWEAVER@MIT.EDU
Looking for a summer internship in the mechanical or electrical engineering fields.

FROM: JOANN LIN
CONTACT: JOANNLIN@MIT.EDU
Looking for a summer internship at an environmental engineering firm.