Hey!
This is Elise Hens, the up and coming VP Alumnae Relations. First, I’d like to say that I am SO excited to get better connected with all of you and learn more about you! So here are some tidbits about me. I’m a sophomore in course 1E (Environmental Engineering) and I’m thinking about minoring in Environmental Public Policy. As I told my family earlier this year, when I grow up I want to be some weird mix of scientist, politician, and tree hugger! I’m from Monument, Colorado and I’ve stayed there my entire life. I’m now living in Baker House and loving the short walk to campus in the Boston cold. Feel free to contact me at any time with questions, comments, and anything else. My email address is elisetch@mit.edu. As you’ve probably noticed, I’ve revamped the newsletter a little and I’d love to hear what you think! I hope the new year is treating you well!

LITB,
Elise

Important Note!!!!
The MIT Alumni office has asked that we ask all the alumnae to please update your information on the Infinite Connection webpage. Not only will it be easier for MIT, it will also make my job a lot easier when trying to find alums. Thank you!

Note from Elise
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January in Review

This month has been a more laid back than most as far as organized AXΩ events go, but that doesn’t mean that the sisters weren’t busy! IAP started with all the sisters doing unique things on their own and culminates with the Spring House Cleaning which you will hear more about in the next newsletter!

IAP

Earlier this month I asked the girls to send me a quick email about what she was doing over IAP and as a testament to just that, I got a bunch of automated response emails titled “Out of the Country,” including Lauren Rodda, Yuri Hanada, Minh Huynh-Le, and “I will be in Peru working on a class project” from Connie Lu. Anya Shafiro spent 10 days in Israel (pictured at left when when she first arrived) with Taglit Birthright learning about Israel with other Jewish heritage students and she has decided to go back in two months to do community service type work with the National Jewish Fund’s Alternative Spring Break. To learn more visit http://www.jnf.org/asb/. YeSeul’s UROP took her to Cape Town, South Africa and Windhoek, Namibia to do climate change adaptation research. Meanwhile, Minh visited Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam for an Urban Studies and Planning UROP to study street life (pictured at right trying out the local cuisine).

But not all of us were out of the country! Amber Stangroom and Deepa Rao were doing environment science field work in Death Valley while Monica Isava was helping referee soccer games in her hometown.

Alumnae-Current Sister Connection

This is a new column that I am introducing and I NEED YOUR HELP!

Here is where I would like to put sisters reaching out for connections of any kind. I envision mostly comments such as “I’m looking for a job as a rocket scientist, please contact me if you have any advice” (from an undergraduate) or “I interview people for jobs at my company, contact me if you would like to do a mock interview” (from an alum).

I would greatly appreciate any participation. Please email me (elisetch@mit.edu) if you would like to add a post to the column.

Thanks!

Elise
Review continued

Many Alpha Chi’s did externships across the United States, including New York City and even locally in Boston. To learn more about Externships or to learn how to sponsor MIT externships visit https://alum.mit.edu/volunteering/VolunteerTools/ExternshipProgramSponsors/Externship_Program_FAQs.jsp.

Meanwhile, other girls were in Boston. A few of the freshman were hanging out and finishing up 18.02A. Lots of girls took PE classes such as Beginner Tango and Ice Skating. Still more girls participated in UROPs in places like CSAIL, Parson’s Lab, and various biology labs. Liz Simon and Miriam Zachau Walker (right) even participated in the Glass Blowing class! A group of four girls also went to Leadershape, a weekend long leadership conference in mid January. Some daring, competitive girls participated in 6.470 Battle Code. Kat Wong participated in 2.75 Precision Machine Design and built a 360 degree optical tomography scanner (left), which is an attachment for existing CT scanners so doctors can better diagnose head and neck cancer. Not only that, but it’s going to be presented at the Center for Integration of Medicine and Innovative Technology (CIMIT) forum this coming Tuesday!

NEW MEMBER SERVICE PROJECT

The new members this past semester organized a two part service project including volunteering for the Jolly Jaunt and making squares for The Knitting Connection. The Jolly Jaunt is a 5K Fun Run and Walk to raise money to benefit the athletes of Special Olympics Massachusetts. Basically the girls helped with handing out water to the runners, registration, and anything else that was needed. After the race was finished, a bunch of them enjoyed some hot chocolate together to burn off the Boston chill.

Some new members also learned to knit so that they could donate their creations to the Knitting Connection, which then distributes the hats, scarfs and whatnot to children in the Boston area. The girls loved the knitting project so much that they planned knitting sessions over IAP (above).

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Crew girls headed out to Florida early this month for training / vacation and I’ve heard that it was splendidly warm. Margaret was training with track and field and Elizabeth Phillips was practicing Rifle. The MIT swimmers were out and about and raising money for Haitian relief by accepting donations for admissions at the last home meet of the season. To learn more visit: [http://www.mitathletics.com/sports/m-swim/2009-10/releases/HaitiSwim_013010](http://www.mitathletics.com/sports/m-swim/2009-10/releases/HaitiSwim_013010). Amy Jacobi and Sarah Scodel were also NEWMAC swimmers of the week this month! To see their accomplishments visit [http://www.mitathletics.com/sports/w-swim/2009-10/releases/SotW_012510](http://www.mitathletics.com/sports/w-swim/2009-10/releases/SotW_012510) and [http://www.newmacsports.com/sports/swimdiv/awards/weekly/2009-10/wswimweekly011810](http://www.newmacsports.com/sports/swimdiv/awards/weekly/2009-10/wswimweekly011810) respectively.

### Alpha Chi Quotes

**KUAN CHENG**
MIT PE teachers fully embody the Legally Blonde quote about endorphins making people happy

**VANESSA BOWENS**
Direct quote from my mom: “I only say please once. Then you get an ass whoopin.”

**ANNA CHRISTENSEN**
So, I’m studying for my 18.02 exam and I have a vertical ellipse drawn on my notebook. Jane comes and sits down next to me, looks at my paper and says, “Hey! That’s Ernie!!” She continued to try to explain to me what Burt was, but I think I was laughing too hard to listen.

**JESSICA BAINBRIDGE-SMITH**
I just participated in a group hug with my boss. I love my job!

### Pearls

We would like to congratulate last year’s exec on a wonderful year! They are all Real, Strong Women and worked so hard to improve the chapter. Thank you also to all the alumnae who assisted the executive board and are helping Alpha Chi Omega become an even more amazing place to live, work, and grow every year. You all are truly amazing people and we could never have come this far without you!

Also, we wish the seniors good luck in their final semester here at MIT. We love you all and we can not wait for you to add your talents to the already fabulous alumnae chapter and the wonderful women therein.