

UPCOMING EVENTS

2012 Fighting Illini Football

- Sept. 1:** Western Michigan
Sept. 8: at Arizona State
Sept. 15: Charleston Southern
Sept. 22: Louisiana Tech
Sept. 29: Penn State
Oct. 6: at Wisconsin
Oct. 13: at Michigan
Oct. 27: Indiana (Homecoming)
Nov. 3: at Ohio State
Nov. 10: Minnesota
Nov. 17: Purdue
Nov. 24: at Northwestern

NICKNAMES

"From Now On, Your Name is Flounder"

What are the best nicknames from your era?

Thank you to the brothers who answered our call for the best ATO nicknames and the stories behind them.

Roger Haines '73 wrote: "Mine was 'Hawk,' because of facial resemblance to a major league baseball player who went by that nickname. It stuck like glue while I was there, but only here and there after that. One I liked a lot was for a big, tall guy who had even bigger feet: Simply, 'Shoe.'"

Find more responses to this question and share your own on the message board at www.atoillinois.com.

And turn to page 3 to read more news and memory submissions from Gamma Zeta alumni.



Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity
University of Illinois
www.atoillinois.com
September 2012

Help Support an Outstanding Gamma Zeta Tau Afflicted with ALS, Bob Simonds '43 Leads by Example as a Lifelong ATO

By Mike Ronkoske '00, Vice Chairman of Gamma Zeta Board of Trustees

Bob Simonds '43, one of our most beloved brothers and a role model in my life and many others, needs our support. In 2011, Bob was diagnosed with ALS, or "Lou Gehrig's Disease." Since his diagnosis, he has received much support from the Les Turner ALS Foundation. Now it's time for ATO and Gamma Zeta to give back to Bob and the ALS Foundation.

Bob is a one-of-a-kind, positive force. I have looked up to him ever since he captivated a room full of Taus during my sophomore year. He is a great storyteller, and his tales truly portray how much ATO means to Bob. He recounted a most unique undergrad experience, having acted as president of three different ATO chapters and how he met his wife through the Greek system. The more he talked of ATO, the more he beamed with happiness. Bob not only inspired me to become president of Gamma Zeta in 2001, but he inspires me to be a better



Gamma Zeta brothers with Bob Simonds '43 at the 2011 ALS Walk4Life.

person daily because he leads by example. He is the very definition of a gentleman, forever calm and cool, always sincere and never short on jokes - even as his ALS keeps him in a wheelchair.

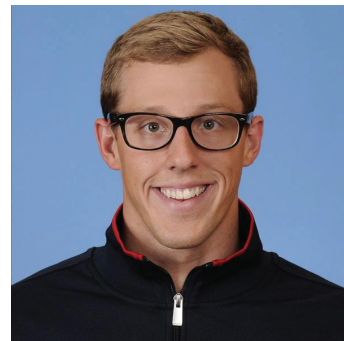
Please join us for the Les Turner ALS Walk4Life on September 22 and help us exceed the \$40,000 fundraising goal. Find more details at www.atoillinois.com.

CONGRATULATIONS

ATOs (and their Families) in the News

Son of Gamma Zeta Jeff McGill '73 Wins Olympic Gold

Congrats to Tyler McGill, son of Gamma Zeta **Jeff McGill '73** for qualifying for the Olympic Finals in the 100 Butterfly and WINNING AN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL as a member of the American 400 medley relay team. We can't imagine how exciting that was for Jeff and how proud he must be. Jeff was in London enjoying the whole Olympic experience... probably even more now that Tyler is done and did so well.



Tyler McGill

ATO's from Eight Decades Come Together to Raise \$10,000 for ALS Walk4Life August Wrigley Rooftop Event Held in Honor of Gamma Zeta Bob Simonds '43

By Dane Luhrsen '77

On August 12 we held a Wrigley Rooftop outing to raise money for the team of **Robert Simonds '43** for the 2012 ALS Walk4Life, which will be held September 22 in Chicago. Thanks to everyone who attended and/or made donations to this event.



Dave, Cam and John Seiler with Bob Simonds

More than 115 brothers and friends attended, representing eight different decades of Gamma Zetas, to more than \$10,000 for the Les Turner ALS Foundation in Bob's honor.

A few other highlights from the day include:

- A three generation group of ATOs – **John, Dave** and **Cam Seiler** (Cam was Purdue, John and Dave were Gamma Zetas) - was present.
- Several little sisters including Jane Seiler (celebrating her 59th wedding anniversary with husband John, Gamma Zeta '54), Reggie Timson (who brought a huge group... THANKS REGGIE!) and my wife Mary Beth (Brennan) Luhrsen (who brought her sisters and several friends) attended.
- ATOs from at least four different schools – Illinois, Ohio State, Purdue and Clemson - participated.
- **Jeff Eversden '02** presented Bob with a cool picture of his plaque at the Gamma Zeta house.
- Four current undergrad rushees attended along with our undergrad rush chairman – (when Bob was asked why they should become ATOs he replied “It’s for a lifetime!!” What great evidence of that this day was.)

Special thanks to:

- 44th Ward Alderman **Tom Tunney '77** for being our host and for helping with the logistics with the Rooftop
- **Bob Cavoto '75, Bill Barry '77, Dave Seiler '77** and **Neil Bresnahan '80** for extremely generous donations that “seeded” this event and covered our expenses so that everyone else’s donations went right to the ALS Foundation.
- Bob Cavoto, **Dave Seiler '77** and son Cam, **Mark Everette '79**, Neil Bresnahan and Reggie Timson (little sister) for spreading the word and bringing groups of more than 10 people each.
- Current undergrad Worthy Master **Drew O’Neil** for managing a “Split the Pot” raffle on site that raised an additional \$440. **John Norton '77** won the raffle and promptly donated his winnings right back to the ALS Foundation...Thanks Nort!
- House Corporation President **Dave Krug '95** for supporting the event from the start and especially for linking in many of the younger guys and current undergrads including several guys who were winners of the Bob Simonds scholarship over the last several years.



Steve Dalley with John, Jonathan and Travis Norton and Bill Barry

And a very special thanks goes to Bob Simonds who inspired this day to happen, showed up and greeted each of the guests and provided a wonderful example of leadership and the lifetime experience that is ATO. THANKS BOB!! Also, thanks to Bob's son Tom and his aid Daniel who supported Bob throughout the day and made it possible for



Mary Beth Luhrsen, Katie and Steven Keown, Dane Luhrsen, John Luhrsen, Megan Colgan

him to attend.

This great event was held to raise money for Bob's team that will be walking in the ALS Walk4Life in Chicago on September 22. If you weren't able to attend this event but would still like to participate (or continue to participate) Bob would love to have you walk with him and/or make a donation. You can continue to use the website that we set up for this event to make donations to Bob's team at – Gamma Zeta Rooftop Event for Bob Simonds. **Find a link at www.atoillinois.com.** Bob and his team are both currently #1 on the list of fundraisers for this event and intend to stay there so please kick in if you can.

CHAPTER NEWS

ATO Named to Senior 100 Honorary

Congratulations to one of our brothers, **Matthew O'Neill '12** on his being named one of the Top 100 Seniors at the University of Illinois.

ALUMNI UPDATES

H. “Cam” Murchison ’43

(7905 Hillfawn Cir, Dallas, TX, 75248) I retired over six years ago. What would I have learned at the University of Intimidation of “Chambana” without my super Alpha Tau Omega brothers to help in every way to prevent a flunk-out? We couldn’t ever talk to our professors, no T.A.s... They tried many ways to flunk us out! They chose my classes, taking up “only” 20.5 hours with Advanced Chem, Math, etc. All I enjoyed was ROTC, band, and ATO.

Ernest Hanson ’56

(556 Campus Dr., Riverside, CA, 92507; mark.hanson@ucr.edu) My work has involved issues of development in third world countries. My latest book on the subject has just come out on Kindle and in paperback: *Economic Development, Education and Transnational Corporations* (London:

Routledge Press), paperback edition 2011.

Richard Murphy ’62

(6350 Bernadette Ln, San Diego, CA, 92120; judgemayor@att.net) I recently published a memoir entitled *San Diego’s Mayor Judge* that is available on Amazon.com. Chapter 2 includes some ATO experiences and includes a photo of the fraternity officers from the fall of 1964.

E. Houlihan ’70

(7330 Maryland Ave, St. Louis, MO, 63130; mhoulihan@hdcast1.com) My best ATO memory is having **Tom Krozczosky** as a roommate. Now I’m a grandfather to four. I created a new business and have hopes “Without Limits.”

Dane Luhrsen ’74

(1944 Hampton Dr, Wheaton, IL, 60187; dane.luhrsen@gartner.com) I have been married to Mary Beth (Brennan – Billy’s sis-

ter, Illini, DG) for 28 years. We’ve lived in Wheaton for most of that time and have four kids: Katie (25), John (24), Annie (21) and Eric (18). Katie and Annie are Illini. John was an ATO at Ohio State. Eric is a freshman at Eastern. It’s been a very exciting year for us with Katie getting married last summer. This past fall was a lot of fun as Annie was the setter for the Illini women’s volleyball team. We followed the girls around the Big Ten and all of the way to the NCAA finals where they finally lost to UCLA in the national championship game in San Antonio. **Mike “Mongo” Maher ’77** and **Mike Ganey ’07** (Bucket’s son) work with me at Gartner and I see them all the time. **Peter “Raven” Korst ’73** lives a few minutes from me in Wheaton. I stay in touch via email with a lot of guys and see DA, Campy Dave, Meach and others often in Champaign and BB and many of the Chicago based guys at the annual Christmas Party, March of Dimes dinner and our occasional Cubs Roof Top outings.

David Koscielniak ’75

(12310 W Waterford Ave., Greenfield, WI, 53228; kozkids77@hotmail.com) My best ATO memory was the time **Dave Holton ’75** closed his window during our snowball fight on the front lawn thinking he was safe. Wrong! I fired the snowball through the glass, which exploded into his room. He slowly lifted the lower sash and said, “I can’t believe you did that!”

I am currently working like I did 30 years ago due to the depressed architecture and construction markets. It’s good to know my work ethic has not changed, I remain positive.

What’s new with you? Share your updates, stories and photos in the Alumni Updates section at www.atoillinois.com.

He’s Been an ATO for Nearly 70 Years!

Thank you to **Frank Blazey ’42** for sharing the following story...

I left the university in ’43 and entered West Point. Somehow I graduated and was commissioned a 2nd Lt in the Army in 1946. I served until 1975 when I moved to North Carolina and went to work for a local Coca-Cola bottling company. My military career was exciting, different for sure, and sometimes dangerous as I served in the Korean War and twice in Viet Nam. I also spent a few years in the Pentagon, teaching at my alma mater, and jumping out of airplanes in the airborne organizations.

Related to our fraternity there is one story involving two brothers I helped recruit: **Bob Dickey ’42** and **Diet Knodell ’42**, both from my hometown. I returned to the Gamma Zeta house in 1947 and we had a great time in visiting another ATO, **Frank Meyer ’42**, in Springfield. Through the many years since U of I days I kept up with Bob and Diet, and I am sad to say that they are no longer living. As to family I married a NY lady and we had three children and we will celebrate our 65th anniversary this fall. I enjoyed my fraternity life immensely.

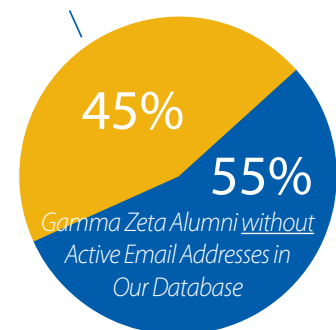
ON THE WEB

Email Crisis: We’re Missing Them for More than Half of Our Alumni!

In today’s digital world, it’s easier (and cheaper) than ever to communicate with a large group such as ours. Gamma Zeta sends an email newsletter with the latest chapter and alumni news and event details the fourth Tuesday of each month. If you’re one of the 55% haven’t been receiving these emails, please update your email address today. You can do so by logging in to www.atoillinois.com, or by sending it with your full name and initiation year to our alumni relations office at feedback@affinityconnection.com.

Thank you for your cooperation! By updating your email address, you stay in the loop on the latest information from Gamma Zeta, and help us to save money on paper, printing and postage.

Gamma Zeta Alumni *with* Active Email Addresses in Our Database



Total living alumnae: 1,419

2012 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Thank you to the following brothers who have supported our annual fund this year. To date, we have raised \$4,330. Add your name to the list by making your contribution today!

**Thomas Arkle Clark Society
(\$1,000+)**

Martin Wade 1968

**True Merit Club
(\$500-\$999.99)**

Thomas Hough 1970
John Aymond 1977

**Maltese Cross Club
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**Azure & Old Gold Club
(\$150-\$249.99)**

Tyson Brill 1999

**1101 Pennsylvania Club
(\$110.10)**

M. Schueler 1947

**Gamma Zeta Friend
(\$50-\$110.09)**

Glenn Buchta
Joseph Rossi
Edward Giller 1938
Merrill Huffman 1948
Arthur Hasse 1958
James Vopicka 1963
Mark McQuality 1971
Richard Korst 1975

Donor (Up to \$49.99)

Dwight Pulsfus 1969

*Reflects gifts received as of
August 21, 2012.*

Add Your Name!

Put your name on the Honor Roll in 2012 by making your gift today.

There are three ways to donate:

- Mail a check payable to "Thomas Arkle Clark Memorial Chapter House Corporation" to the return address on this newsletter.
- Log on to www.atoillinois.com.
- Call 800-975-6699.



**Gamma Zetas Bond Together to Support a Fellow ATO
and Raise Money for a Good Cause...Details Inside!**

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