

NEWS

House Renovation Plans

If you stop by the House this fall, you're likely to see some "pardon our mess" signs due to significant renovation work that is underway in several major public areas of the house. **Dave Krug '95** is leading a committee and working closely with **Greg Scott '76**, House Corporation Director, focused on studying the needs and overseeing the capital improvements of the house. Here is a quick summary of the work planned for this year:

- Minor repairs and clean-up in the front entry way and main living rooms
- Restoration of the laundry room
- Renovation of the Chapter room
- Converting the bike room/dining room extension into a TV room
- Renovation of the dining Room

Mini-Reunion in Chicago

Several Gamma Zetas from the class of '54 met in Chicago for a mini-reunion prompted by the Illini vs. Washington game in Soldier Field on September 14.



Ed Ptacek, Waldo Peterson, Dane Luhrsen, Dick Young, Paul Luhrsen and Brig Young.



Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity

University of Illinois

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Gamma Zeta Must Lead the Way in Compliance with Alcohol Use and Risk Management Policies

Brothers,

We have been blessed with a rich legacy of leaders from Gamma Zeta who successfully faced academic, athletic, and social challenges during their time in school as well as later in their professional lives. Over the decades, these men faced the terrible consequences of wars. They had to navigate issues surrounding bigotry and racism. They also had to wrestle down chronic problems of drug and alcohol abuse to protect the membership and their families.

However, it seems like our membership and its leaders are now confronted by an equally dangerous and perhaps more pervasive issue. This issue is that of the heightened level of risk that many of today's young adults seem to invite without thoughtful consideration toward the impact their careless actions might have on others much less themselves. It seems that these risks are often fueled by alcohol like never before.

The University recently issued another plea for compliance to all fraternity and sorority chapters on campus to review their social practices and risk management policy execution in light of a number of life threatening incidents that have happened in the early weeks of this fall semester. These incidents included alcohol abuse /poisoning and alcohol present during fraternity/sorority bid acceptances. And, one accident occurred where a fraternity member was seriously injured as result of a fall from a chapter house fire escape. The school also has sent a reminder about the new Illinois Liquor Control Act adopted just this year which now holds individuals (social hosts) criminally responsible for hosting an event where they knowingly permit a residence they occupy to be used for underage drinking of alcohol.



Jack Klues

This is being followed up by a series of meetings and workshops for both undergrads and concerned alumni bodies of both fraternity and sorority chapters.

Clearly to me, this is not something we can ignore or draw inaccurate comparisons to our "good old days" on campus.

Protecting/rationalizing dangerous behaviors infused with alcohol in the name of "tradition" is naive and short-sighted. The traditions worthy of protecting are of a far higher order. For us, they are embedded in the Alpha Tau Omega creed as written by our founder Otis Glazebrook and within the oath each of us swore to uphold at initiation.

We must work together to nurture our real, time honored traditions not only as defense for today's insanity, but to ensure a proud and respected legacy for decades to come.

We must be leaders again in accepting the University policies in regards to alcohol use and risk management rather than examples should we not be in compliance.

I have tremendous confidence in the leadership of GZ — Alex, Jimmy, Sam, Jack, Kevin, and the others serving on the Executive Committee. They are smart, collaborative, and caring officers. We alumni are working hard with them to improve the House's physical structure, the pledging process, social and scholarship planning, and alumni relations.

However, our collective success demands upon total buy-in and participation from each and every member on campus today as well as supportive Alumni.

I know I can count on you all.

Jack Klues

President, Gamma Zeta Board of Trustees

Alums Had a Great Time at the Illini Football Game in Soldier Field

More Than 150 ATOs, Family, and Guests attended the Game vs. Washington in September

When the University of Illinois announced the football schedule for this fall that included a game in Chicago's Soldier Field between the Illini and the Washington Huskies, **John Aymond '80** saw an opportunity. First, to get a bunch of Gamma Zeta's together in Chicago, which is always fun, and second to help **Bob Simonds '47** raise money for ALS research. Through his involvement with the Greek Council Board of Advisors he turned this into a giant Greek Reunion at Soldier Field to watch the Illini play Washington in football.

John will deflect credit to many others who supported his effort but be assured that he was the inspiration and driving force behind an extremely successful event. Just consider these facts:

- More than 150 tickets were purchased through ATO Gamma Zeta block, resulting in \$10,000 for ALS research.

- More than 1,200 tickets were sold in the Greek Block, managed by John. This raised more than \$100,00 in sales for the athletic department.

It was a great day at Soldier Field, despite the loss, and was made even better when Bob tailgated with his grandson to greet and thank the Taus and their guests for the support.

Great work John and THANKS for all of your hard work in pulling this together. Thanks also to **Mike Barrett '80**, **Dan Touhy '80**, and **Barry Booth '80** for hosting the tailgate. RUH! RAH! REGA! to our '54s who came in for the game: **Bill McCarty**, **Ed Ptacek**, **Brig Young**, **Jack Young** and **Waldo Peterson**, Ed all of the way from southern California and Brig from Colorado. Also heard that **Rich Orr '81** and **Frank Maxwell '84** came in from California, **Mike "Peaches" Perkins '74** from Pennsylvania, **Jiggs Lamb '75** from Ohio and **Dave Lundstedt '75** from Connecticut attended.



Brig Young '54, Bill McCarty '54, Waldo Peterson '54 and Carol McCarty.

One final thanks to **Bob Cavoto '75**, **Dave Seiler '77**, **Bill Barry '77**, **John Aymond '80**, **Cary McMillan '80**, and **Barry Booth '80** who got this all started back in April with generous donations that seeded this entire event.

'57 Gamma Zetas Gather in Virginia

This 2013 event was in Williamsburg, Virginia in mid September. This year, the group was all honored with their ATO Gold Certificates, signifying over 50 years of membership in Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity.



Sitting: Mimi Browning, Ginny Siegle.
Standing middle row: starting with Jane McCormick in yellow shirt, Jane Burgess, Jane Hinkle, Sharen Altenburger, Susie and Eddie (Butch) Smith. **Standing back row:** Dick Barry, John Glezen, Jim McCormick, Bud Browning, Bruce Burgess, Bill Hinkle, Bill Altenberger, Howard Landon.

San Diego Gamma Zetas Get Together

Several Generations Swapped Stories and Reminiscenced for Hours

On Saturday, August 31, several San Diego area Gamma Zeta's got together for lunch at Randy Jones Sports Bar in San Diego. The get together was prompted by **Dane Luhrsen '77**, Gamma Zeta's Director of Alumni Relations, visit to the area to watch his son's Eastern Illinois Panther Football team play San Diego State (EIU won 40-19). **Ed Ptacek '54**, **Dr. Bill Mohlenbrock '60**, **The Honorable Dick Murphy '65**, and **Brian Rawers '78** joined Dane for lunch. This is just the tip of the iceberg of Gamma Zetas who have settled in San Diego and have lived in the area for years.



L-R: Dane Luhrsen '77, Dick Murphy '65 and Brian Rawers '78 across the back and Ed Ptacek '54 sitting.

We learned some great local historical facts of Gamma Zeta's influence in San Diego and Chicago. In Chicago, we heard that Ed Ptacek was one of the original investors in Chances R, which became a very popular bar/music club in Champaign in the 70s but had its origins in the early 60's in Chicago. Ed, a staunch Republican, had to convince the local Chicago Alderman that he was a Democrat in order to get the original zoning/liquor license and maintain the ruse for years while he was involved in the business.

In San Diego, we learned that the local trolley lines, named the Orange Line and the Blue Line, were named when Dick was on the City council. At the time, he was Chairman of the San Diego Transit committee and a good friend, also an Illini alumnus was the Director of the San Diego Transit authority. Yes, these two Illini alumni named the San Diego Trolley lines in honor of

their Illini roots.

We shared stories for nearly three hours, most that aren't fit for print but had a great time. Most notable however was that Brian Rawers, who has had a very successful legal career, mentioned to Dick that he had been "this close" to being appointed California Judge two times in the last several years. Dick said that had he known that Brian was a Gamma Zeta, was otherwise qualified and had been ATO Worthy Master, that "we could have probably made that happen." If that's not a testament to the value of networking with your Gamma Zeta brothers, of all ages, I don't know what is.

Introducing Alpha Management and Chris Gutting

Beginning this fall, the Thomas Arkle Clark Memorial Chapter House Corporation will be working with Alpha Management Group, a company that specializes in assisting fraternities with managing their facilities and finances. AMG is excited to begin this relationship with Gamma Zeta Chapter as it marks the fourth group we are working with on the University of Illinois campus. AMG currently serves four fraternities on the University of Illinois campus and fraternities on twelve other campuses across the country.

In the upcoming months, AMG will work with the house corporation leaders to develop an ongoing preventative maintenance program. This program should reduce long-term repair expenses as properly maintained building systems and equipment run more efficiently, last longer, and break down less frequently.

Chris Gutting, Ret. (USN) BA MS CPO, is the Alpha Management Facility Manager who is working directly with our undergraduate members on a day-to-day basis. We recently spoke with him about AMG.

Can you first tell us a little bit about your background?

After high school, I joined the United States Navy where I served on several ships as an Operations Specialist and as a Hazardous Materials Technician. Later in my career, I was a recruiter and an administrator at the Nuclear Weapons Station. I retired after twenty years of service in the Navy. Following my retirement, I attended Eastern Illinois University and the University of Illinois at Champaign receiving a bachelor's degree in Adult Education and a Masters in Science of Technology. Prior to joining AMG, I managed hotel and apartment properties, and taught computer classes at a community college.

What does Alpha Management do for ATO and what is your specific role?

As the facility manager, I oversee the day-to-day operations of the building and grounds. I oversee the move in and move out process, conduct regular inspections, coordinate repairs and maintenance and work with the chapter members in an effort to see that the property is properly cared for and that they have a good housing experience.

In the past, our fraternity operated with very little adult supervision. The older members provided strong leadership and things worked pretty well. Operating the fraternity provided



Jack Polancich, Gamma Zeta Undergraduate House Manager, and Chris Gutting, Alpha Management Resident Director

excellent leadership development and team building opportunities. What's changed? Have we lost that by getting you guys involved. Do the guys still have opportunities to learn, grow, make mistakes, learn from their mistakes, lead, follow etc.? Some worry that we're just doing it for them rather than teaching them. How do you guys address this question?

AMG's program was developed to support the concept of fraternities being a place in which young men can learn leadership, gain experience in running organizations and build life-long friendships. The chapter leadership is still involved in the day-to-day operations of the chapter house and has specific responsibilities that promote the development of skills and gaining valuable experiences. However, AMG provides a safety net so that critical services are still taken care of in the event chapter leadership cannot adequately manage these activities. Additionally, AMG coordinates the day-to-day operational issues so that repairs and maintenance are properly performed, and so that the house is in a better condition for the members.

Can you describe what you do on a typical visit to ATO?

My typical visit is to walk the house to ensure the property is maintained properly. I try to visit with the guys and ensure everyone's questions are answered or problems are taken care of. Communication is a big part of my job while in the chapter house. I'll meet with the Executive Officers to ensure all is well or help them develop solutions to their problems or concerns. Advising the members is a great part of my visit.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Successful Membership Drive Leads to 35 New Brothers

Renewed Pledge Program Focuses on Our Traditions

We are extremely pleased to announce a very successful rush effort this fall. The '17 pledge class is comprised of 35 high caliber individuals and we owe the strong class to the tremendous work done by Head Rush Chairs Jack McAndrew and RJ Kleinhans and their team (thank you also to those alums who provided names of incoming freshmen that we could add to our list of rushees). We trust that the '17s will prove a great addition to the House.

In order to ensure the same, we have revised the pledge program to include a renewed focus on respect for the House, its history, and continuing the proud Gamma Zeta tradition started many years ago. The Alumni Membership Committee and the active's Executive Board worked closely together this summer to develop a more organized and focused pledge program that sets firm goals regarding various aspects of campus life, but puts the number one emphasis on academics. We anticipate that the revised program will provide a strong foundation for building the types of great ATO pledge classes that have defined the House throughout its long history.



Jeff Scolaro '04.5
Director of Membership

WEB UPDATE

Join the Gamma Zeta Alpha Tau Omega Illinois LinkedIn Subgroups

We've created LinkedIn "Subgroups" across a number of industries and career path as a way to identify Gamma Zetas who have expertise in each of these areas. You are encouraged to join those groups that are appropriate for you and to use these groups to identify support when needed. Here are the groups that have been created and links to join.

First, please join the main Gamma Zeta ATO Illinois LinkedIn group: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Alpha-Tau-Omega-University-Illinois-96736/about>

Accounting/Consulting: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Accounting-Consulting-5175226/about>

Education/Administration/Coaching: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Education-Administration-Coaching-5175245/about>

Engineering: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/>

Engineering-5175249/about

Executive Search: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Executive-Search-5175255/about>

Finance/Private Equity/Venture Capital/Banking: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Finance-Private-Equity-Venture-Capital-5175231/about>

Insurance: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Insurance-5175243/about>

Legal: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Legal-5175224/about>

Marketing/Advertising: http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=5144274&trk=my_groups-b-grp-v

Medical/Dental/Healthcare: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Medical-Dental-Healthcare-5175235/about>

Military/Public Service: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Military-Public-Service-5175257/about>

Real Estate/Construction/Architecture: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Real-Estate-Construction-Architecture-5175218/about>

Restaurant/Hospitality: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Restaurant-Hospitality-5175284/about>

Sales: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Sales-5175241/about>

Sports/Entertainment/Media: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Sports-Entertainment-Media-5175286/about>

Technology: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Technology-5175280/about>

We had to combine areas because LinkedIn limits us to 20 subgroups but we have room for a few more. If you have ideas for additional groups, please forward them to dane.luhrsen@gartner.com.

TAU REWARDS

New Program Rewards Improved Study Habits and Scholarship Behavior

Late last spring, Jack Vadeboncour and I began work on developing a new initiative to incentivize and reward improved study habits. Our goal is simple — to improve the House GPA and regain our position as one of the top ranked fraternities on campus regarding scholarship.

I introduced a software company that I had positive experience with at my own ad agencies where it was important to instill a proper learning culture and a set of collaborative behaviors among my executives, especially the new hires coming to us direct from college. This SAS company is named Work.com and is a subsidiary of Salesforce.com.

Work.com provides us with a "real time" and "peer to peer" evaluation tool for each undergraduate member to join via a dedicated online site. These behaviors include:

- Inviting interesting University Faculty or Administrators to speak at dinner
- Contributing relevant course materials to GZ Academic Collection (i.e., The Files)
- Tutoring a Pledge
- Organizing study groups
- Devising/respecting "quiet time" for study
- Celebrating major academic successes

Participating members will be publicly recognized to the entire House and rewarded with a \$5 "badge" redeemable through Amazon when they complete such tasks as previously mentioned (minimum of 3). Every member has the opportunity to earn up to \$200 per semester in Amazon.com cash credits to use when and how he sees fit.

Please give Jack Vadeboncour and Joe Pearson, current scholar chair, your support and encouragement.

Jack Klues

President, Gamma Zeta Board of Trustees

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