

UPCOMING EVENT

"Tau Madness" NCAA Tourney Kick-off Luncheon

Featuring
Doug Altenberger '83

Tuesday, March 10
11:30am-1:00pm
Matt Menna's '93
Highline Bar
(169 W. Kinzie St., Chicago)

Additional details and register
online at
www.atoillinois.com.

LOST EMAILS

We do a very comprehensive eNewsletter once per month with much more Gamma Zeta news. If you aren't getting it, it's because we don't have your correct email address. Please send your email address to daneluhrsen@gmail.com and we'll add you to the list.

We are missing addresses for 220 Gamma Zeta alumni and almost 600 emails! Help! If you have contact info for any of our lost brothers please send it along.

Our database is used solely for Gamma Zeta communications and is never traded or sold.

S.O.S.

**We need more help
to keep all of this
positive momentum
going strong!**

Join us as an alumni volunteer! You will feel immense satisfaction from bringing Gamma Zeta back to its proud heritage of leadership and lifelong brotherhood. Please contact our BOT Chairman Jack Klues (kluesjack@yahoo.com or (847) 736-6013) if you would be willing to help in some way.

Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity
University of Illinois
www.atoillinois.com
February 2015

CHANCELLOR WISE VISIT

"Chancellor Wise – these are the men of Alpha Tau Omega!"

On January 21, at the invitation of Gamma Zeta Board of Trustees Chairman **Jack Klues '77**, Chancellor Phyllis Wise visited the Thomas Arkle Clark Memorial Chapter House for dinner. The house looked its best in the last three years and our guys put on a great showing, suits and ties included!

Norm Bilsbury '92 was there early in the day working with the undergrads making sure the house looked its best inside and out. **Greg Scott '76**, House Corporation President, **Joe Grazioso '16**, House Manager and **Jimmy Kowalczyk '16**, Worthy Master, did a fantastic job making sure that everything was cleaned up and last minute small repairs were made.

Thanks to **Dave Krug '95**, the very impressive Heldman Trophy has been restored and returned to its rightful place at the base of the stairs in our front hallway.

Jeff McGill '73 had everything organized in the dining room, including flowers on the tables. He also arranged for Illinois Doctoral piano student and Krannert Award-winning Sam Gingher to be playing when Chancellor Wise arrived.

Jack gave Chancellor Wise a tour of the common areas before dinner, including a little history of our 113-year-old newly-restored Bechstein Grand Piano. She was clearly impressed to find such a beautiful antique



**Jack Klues '77 with Jimmy
Kowalczyk '16 and Chancellor
Wise**



Restored Heldman Trophy

inside a fraternity house.

All of the undergrads went into the dining room while Jack led the tour. When the Chancellor entered the dining room, Jack announced, "Chancellor Wise – these are the Men of Alpha Tau Omega."

After dinner, everyone retired to our beautiful East Living Room under the watch of Thomas Arkle Clark and Robert Simonds' portraits. **Dane Luhrsen '77**, Director of Alumni Relations, reviewed a brief slide show history of Gamma Zeta and Jimmy provided an update on the current undergraduate chapter.

Chancellor Wise spoke for a few minutes about her vision for the university. She told our undergrads what a great opportunity they had with caring and supporting alumni and urged them to take full advantage. She was very gracious, clearly enjoyed herself and was impressed with her visit. Jack presented her with a gift of appreciation, a glass box with ATO engraved on it that was provided by Wynn Smiley, ATO National

CEO (THANKS Wynn!!). Afterwards, Jack and Chancellor Wise traveled over to the State Farm Center to cheer the Illini to a big win over the Boilermakers.

Find the full story and more photos on our website at www.atoillinois.com.

4 Awesome Highlights from Homecoming 2014

Gamma Zeta Class of 1984/1984.5 Celebrated 30th Reunion

By Mike O'Brien '81

On Friday, October 24, the 84 & 84.5 Phroques gathered in Champaign for our 30th Homecoming Reunion. The group met at Stone Creek Golf Course in Urbana for lunch (thanks **Dan "Dawg" Barry '84** for picking up the tab!) and played 18 holes. We had dinner at Biaggi's on South Neil in Champaign (thanks for picking up the tab "Dawg") where brothers caught up on some old stories. The night ended at Kam's. For those of you who have not been to Kam's in a long time, the unique mixture of last week's vomit and spilled beer odor still slaps you in the face when you walk through the doors.

On Saturday, we enjoyed a nice catered breakfast at the ATO house and watched house scholarship presentations. The house looked better than it looked the day we graduated! Kudos to the Class of '77 for their generous support, both financially and time-wise, of Gamma Zeta and its membership.

We then attended the pillow fight, I mean football game. Thanks to Dawg and his family, we watched a rare Illini victory over Minnesota in the "Barry Family Luxury Suites," named in honor of their family for their generous contributions to the U of I.

We all agreed we should do this more often. Thanks to all who attended. If you missed it, we are planning to do it again in two years or so! See you soon!

Gamma Zeta '77s Honored at Homecoming 2014 with "Club 77" Room

During homecoming, current Gamma Zeta Worthy Master **Jimmy Kowalczyk** and Undergraduate Director of Alumni Relations **Parker Pevitz** recognized the Gamma Zeta pledge class of 1977.

They thanked the class of '77 for their generous donations of over \$400,000 which led to the complete restoration of the Chapter

Room/Dean Olson Room, the Study Room/JD Sinnock Room, Dining Room/EL Simmons Room and the dining room extension.

In appreciation of the class of '77's leadership and incredible generosity, the dining room extension was dedicated "Club 77." A replica of the permanent brass relief will be displayed in the room until the permanent plaque arrives.



77's Don Armstrong, Bill Barry, Dane Luhrsen, Nobel Olson, Steve Dalley, John Norton, Jack Klues and Rob Meyer representing their entire class are honored at Homecoming 2014

Special thanks were given to the men below whose leadership and generosity made this all possible. Each was presented with a replica Club 77 plaque.

Dave Krug '95 - Oversaw the entire project and pushed it to completion

Nobel Olson '77 - Led the fundraising campaign among the 77's and made a generous donation himself

Bill Barry '77 - Serving on the Board of Trustees and made a generous donation

Jack Klues '77 - Serving as Chairman of BOT who has shown unwavering confidence in Gamma Zeta through challenging times. He continues to back this project, and many others, with his leadership, encouragement and personal financial support.

Renovated Historic Gamma Zeta Bechstein Grand Piano Unveiled

If you've been to the chapter house over the last six months, you may have noticed that the grand piano was missing. It was off at the Piano People in Champaign for a complete restoration. It made its way back to the house for Homecoming and looks better than ever.



Mark Faber '75 and Bill Barry '77 perform at Homecoming

Considering this piano was originally built in Germany in 1902, purchased by Gamma Zeta in 1917, made it through two world wars and over 2,000 college guys, its current "like new" appearance is amazing, and the sound is great too!

2014 Gamma Zeta Scholarship Winners Announced at Homecoming

Gamma Zeta alumni have created seven scholarships with an endowment of over \$500,000 awarding nearly \$20,000 per year to Gamma Zeta undergraduates. Criteria include academics, community service and leadership. We have an outstanding scholarship committee which includes:

Committee Chair – **Dave Seiler '77** – Managing Partner, Central IL for McGladrey

Frank Voris '87 – CEO of ViVaki

Dr. Michael Terry '94 – Orthopedic Surgeon at Northwestern and Head Team Physician for the Chicago Blackhawks

Bill Forsyth '83 – Partner and Founder, Frontier Partners, Inc. (former Chief Illini)

Patrick Jensen '98 – Managing Director, Prairie Capital

Dr. Terry, Bill Forsyth and Patrick Jensen were all also ATO Thomas Arkle Clark Award

winners, (top ATO undergrad in country).

Twenty very qualified candidates applied for the scholarships this year and seven scholarships were

awarded on October 25 at Homecoming in a ceremony Saturday morning. Here is the list of scholarships and this year's recipients:

Frederick C. Philbrick Memorial Scholarship– **RJ Kleinhans** (3.13 – Engineering) and **Alex Schwartz** (3.12 – Accounting)

Robert J. Simonds Memorial Scholarship– **Mitchel Talbot** (3.54 –Business)

Richard V. Clausing Memorial Scholarship– **Bret Williams** (3.60 – Accounting)

David S. Timson Memorial Scholarship– **Brett Freedberg** (3.68 Finance), **William Hanson** (3.67 – Business) and **Jack McAndrew** (3.38 – Finance)

Find full versions of these articles, including a list of attendees, MORE PHOTOS!, and more information about our scholarships on our website at www.atoillinois.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jon Osacky '16.5 Recognized for Creating Phone Application, Meter for Uber



Jon speaking to an audience for ACM Open House at U of I.

Internet culture website, the *Daily Dot*, has recently acknowledged Gamma Zeta Undergraduate **Jon Osacky** for creating the Android, and soon to be iPhone application, Meter for Uber. Meter for Uber gives Uber users a breakdown of exactly what they are paying for when they decide to ride with Uber.

Osacky came up with the idea while he was interning in California for another phone application company called Slice. Since he did not have a car, Osacky depended on Uber to get him from place to place and became interested in how Uber calculates its

final cost. From here, Osacky began working and developing what would eventually become Meter for Uber.

Currently, Osacky is back in California interning for Facebook and will remain there over the summer for an internship with Uber.

Congrats Jon on all your achievements! Many more to come!

Daily Dot article:

<http://www.dailydot.com/technology/meter-uber-app-track-bill/>

MOCK INTERVIEW SESSION

17 Gamma Zeta Alumni Participate in Mock Interview Day in Chicago with Undergrads

On Monday afternoon, January 12, Gamma Zeta undergrad **Ben Volk '16.5** coordinated a Mock Interview Day at the Illini Center in Chicago. Each undergrad had the opportunity practice their interview skills and refine their resume with the support of experienced alumni.

Thanks to Ben for coordinating a great event and special thanks to the following alumni and undergrads who participated.

Alumni

Jack Arnold '77
John Aymond '77
Norman Bilsbury '89
Douglas Brashler '02
Joseph DiVittorio '10
William Forsyth '83
Jack Klues '74
Peter Korst '73



Scotty Lu '10
Dane Luhrsén '74
Jim McGuffin '93
Craig Nadborne '75
Andrew O'Neill '14
Daniel Passarella '13
Daniel Reidy '99
Jeffery Siok '99
Andrew Smith '83

To see a list of undergraduate participants and more photos, visit:

<https://atoillinois.com/2015-gamma-zeta-mock-interview-day-pictures/>

PLAID SESSION

Undergrads Complete PLAID Weekend #3

by Jack Klues '74 Chairman BOT



In February, the membership completed its 3rd of four weekends with the Plaid Consultancy and Jaden Brown who is our National HQ representative. It's going exceptionally well as I have personally attended all of them. To quote a summary of the latest weekend from Jaden himself,

"I would say that this is the best I have felt about Gamma Zeta in the past 3 years. They not only understood what we were teaching them, but they came up with adjustments that need to happen not only to get off suspension but make sure that this Spring we are one of the top chapters on campus. I was pleased to see many of the men answering questions and engaged. They are starting to form together as a team and most are quickly jumping on board."



Our expert panel with Moderator Craig Nadborne '75 and Bill Rolander '80, Gerry Kostelny '72, Paul Lundsted '79 and Bill Barry '74

ATO Chicagoland Real Estate Networking Lunch 11/14/14

On November 14, 2014, over 90 ATOs gathered at the Chicago Club to hear our expert panel including **Bill Barry '74**, **Paul Lundstedt '79**, **Gerry Kostelny '72**, **Bill Rolander '80** and **Craig Nadborne '75** share some of their 30 plus years of experience in Chicagoland Real Estate. Thanks to our esteemed panel and **Craig Nadborne** who served as moderator! Also thanks to **Cary McMillan '77** who was our sponsor at the Chicago Club.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Tim Lavery '99 Inducted in Naperville Central Sports Hall of Fame, Joins Other ATO Illini Multi-Sport Stars

Tom Hicks '75 happened to be at the Naperville Central Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony the third to last weekend in January (with his wife who coaches XCountry and teaches at Central) and was excited to learn that another Gamma Zeta, **Tim Lavery '99**, was one of the honorees. Tim starred in both football and baseball for the Redhawks.

He gave both sports a shot as an Illini. He started several games his freshman year as a QB for the Illini football team before ultimately settling on baseball. He went on to play five years in the minor league organizations for the Chicago Cubs and Pittsburgh Pirates.

Coincidentally, **Mike Stine '84**, who is Naperville Central's current head football coach presented the award to Tim. Congrats Tim!!

As an aside... Tim wasn't Gamma Zeta's only multi-sport Illini star...

The Illini's legendary football coach Bob Zupke recruited **Harold Pogue '16** off the Illini track team to ultimately star for the football team and be named All American. Pogue was considered by many to be the



Mike Stine '84 and Tim Lavery '99

(photo by Colleen Abrahamovich)

Illini's greatest football player prior to Red Grange. He also served a term as Worthy Master of Gamma Zeta. How's that for the definition of a busy college student?!

Burdette "Pirate" Thurlby '50 played baseball and basketball for the Illini before coaching and playing in the Cubs minor league system. His classmate **Walt "Slip" Kersulis '50** starred on the football and basketball teams.

Rich Callaghan '65 collected an absolutely incredible nine varsity letters for the Illini in

football, wrestling and baseball.

John Wright '69 was an Academic All American in football and Big Ten high hurdle champion in track. His son **John Wright Jr. '92** was also an Academic All American for the Illini football team. They are the first father-son first team Academic All Americans in NCAA football history.

Jeff Finke '90 played both basketball and football for the Illini. Jeff's son, Michael is a freshman on the Illini basketball team.

Tom Hicks '75, who got this whole thing rolling with his mention of Tim's HOF selection specialized in football as an Illini before going on to a successful pro career with the Bears. However, he most certainly could have played multiple sports in college as he was an All-State selection in football, basketball and baseball while attending Willowbrook High School. He did lead the Taus to four straight intramural basketball championships so I think he deserves a mention!!

Find more photos on our website at www.atoillinois.com!

Dan Barry Wins "Last Tau Standing"

It's official – Dawg Barry '84 Wins "Last Tau Standing" for \$3,000... and Donates it to the House!!

We have a winner in our "Last Tau Standing" pool – **Dan "Dawg" Barry '84**! Dawg won on the Point Spread Differential tie-breaker over nineteen guys who were still mathematically in the running going into the last week of play including three other guys who along with Dawg who had just one loss. Congrats Dawg!!

Dawg's dominance in the pool this year was incredible. He entered five times and four of his five teams were still in the running right up to the last week of play.

Sean Bock '08 was a close second but he just couldn't quite overcome the experience of Barry.

Bob Lyman '83, utilizing a strategy of letting the system make all of his picks from the third week on was right behind in third. What does



Dan "Dawg" Barry '84 and Mike "OB" O'Brien '84 at recent ATO Holiday Happy Hour



Dawg's name will go on our Last Tau Standing trophy at the chapter house

that say about the collective football expertise of the roughly 70 or so Taus who he beat??

Bill Forsyth '86 was the other Tau with just one loss but his picks were just a little more conservative than the others.

The sixteen others who were still in the running, especially **Bill Rolander '83**, were hoping that Dawg's pick would lose which would have thrown the decision to point spread differential among two loss teams. That Houston game went

down to the wire. I would have liked to have been in Bill's family room to see him watching that last play!

Dawg donated his \$3000+ winnings back to the house renovation campaign. Thanks Dawg!!! In addition, Dawg wins 10 racks of ribs donated by **Paul Dioguardi '95**, owner of Hickory House Ribs in Aspen and Parker, CO. THANKS PAUL!!!