

## HOMECOMING

### Homecoming 2015 & Class of '80 Reunion

Please join us at Homecoming!

Friday, October 23

**5:00–7:00 p.m.:** BOT Meeting at the chapter house

Saturday, October 24

**11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.:** Lunch at the chapter house, featuring our new food service, Upper Crust

**12:30–1:30 p.m.:** Ceremony at Chapter House

- Awarding of Timson, Clausing, Simonds, Heldman, Sinnock and Philbrick Scholarships
- Dedication of Memorial Display for our “Gold Star” Gamma Zeta brothers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country
- Awarding of the “Tau Madness” Trophy for last spring’s NCAA basketball pool tourney champion and “Last Tau Standing” Trophy for last fall’s NFL pool
- Awarding of the Matt Heldman Trophy to the top ATO foursome from the RGS Golf Outing
- Recognition of '80s celebrating their 35th reunion

**2:30–5:30 p.m.:** Illini vs. Wisconsin football game

**6:00 p.m.:** Postgame victory celebration, cash bar and hot appetizers at the chapter house

All of the details for each of this event can be found on at <https://atoillinois.com/events>.

*Turn to page 5 to see all of our events planned for this fall!*



# Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity  
University of Illinois  
[www.atoillinois.com](http://www.atoillinois.com)  
September 2015

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### It's a Time of Celebration!

#### Chapter Receives First True Merit Recognition Since 2007

By Jack Klues '77, Chairman, Board of Trustees

On August 8, my wife, Beth, and I attended the ATO National Congress in Indianapolis. We were joined by several other Board of Trustees members, **Jimmy Kowalczyk '16** — our outgoing worthy master, and **Mitchell Talbot '17** — our new worthy master. I am very proud to report that our chapter was recognized with the True Merit Honorable Mention Award, the first True Merit recognition we have received since 2007. In addition, we received Excellence



**New worthy master, Mitchell Talbot '17 (left), joins outgoing worthy master, Jimmy Kowalczyk '16, in presenting this year's True Merit Honorable Mention Award along with several other chapter honors.**

Awards in campus involvement and leadership development, communications, recruitment and scholarship. Jimmy Kowalczyk won a National Storm Strap Award for leadership, and for the third year in a row, our Board of Trustees won an Upper Alpha Award for BOT leadership and support. What a difference one year makes!

Here are some of the highlights of this past year that led to this outstanding recognition:

- Continued implementation of our mentor program and creation of new and innovative undergraduate career development program

with a new role on the executive board.

- Recruitment of an outstanding and 38-man-strong pledge class. They delivered the second-best fraternity pledge GPA on campus and a university basketball intramural championship.
- Improvement of chapter GPA to 3.197 which ranked ATO #7 last fall among all fraternities and well above the IFC and fraternity men's averages.
- Huge improvement in focus and involvement in philanthropy. See expanded article on page 2.
- Complete turnaround in care and respect for the chapter house.
- Improved communications and collaboration with alumni represented by a successful Homecoming event and the hosting of Chancellor Wise for dinner at the chapter house in January.
- Tight financial management and controls.
- Zero risk management violations.
- A full house of 70 men this fall semester.
- This past school year's undergraduate Executive Board led by Worthy Master Jimmy Kowalczyk '16 did an outstanding job and deserves our recognition.

Not to rest on our laurels, your Board of Trustees and undergraduate Executive Board met earlier this summer to set goals and plan for this coming school year. New job descriptions have been developed and approved for both entities, and each undergraduate officer has a set of “SMART” goals tied to financial incentives to guide them. We are very optimistic and confident in the new team that will be leading Gamma Zeta, including new Worthy Master Mitchell Talbot '17.

*(Continued on page 3)*

# GOLD STAR MEMORIAL & CLASS OF 1965 50TH REUNION

## Brothers by Choice, Not by the Accident of Birth

The Class of '65 will be visiting Champaign over the weekend of October 2-3, 2015, to celebrate their 50th Reunion. They will take this opportunity to recognize and honor their Gold Star pledge brother, **Bruce Capel '65**, with a plaque to be displayed in the chapter house.

This idea, led by **Brian Grant '65** and **Retired Rear Admiral Bill Masters '65**, has grown into a memorial to all 22 Gamma Zeta Gold Star brothers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

We're still short of funds to complete this project and would appreciate your donations of any size at <https://atoillinois.com/gamma-zeta-veterans-memorial-and-library-restoration-fund/#!form/GZVeterans>.

### We present our Gold Star Gamma Zetas:

#### Illinois Gamma Zeta '14



**Benjamin Harrison Bloebaum**  
PVT, USA  
Nonbattle Casualty  
Camp McArthur,  
Texas (WWI)  
October 14, 1918

#### Illinois Gamma Zeta '37



**Cecil Leon Wells**  
Col., USAAF  
Killed in action.  
France (WWII)  
September 1, 1944

#### Illinois Gamma Zeta '42



**John William Califf**  
SSG, USA  
Killed in action.  
Epinla, France  
(WWII)  
August 31, 1944

#### Illinois Gamma Zeta '15



**Robert Ellsworth Thomas**  
Capt., USAAF  
Killed in flight  
accident.  
Ukiah, Calif. (WWII)  
January 21, 1943

#### Illinois Gamma Zeta '38



**George Henry Harber**  
ENS, USN  
Killed in flight  
accident.  
Clatsop County,  
Oregon (WWII)  
July 5, 1943



**Allan Harvey Ferguson Jr.**  
1st Lt., USAAF  
Killed in action.  
Pilsen, Czechoslovakia  
(WWII)  
April 25, 1945

#### Illinois Gamma Zeta '32



**Harry Nelson McLaughlin**  
1st Lt., USA  
Killed in action.  
Germany (WWII)  
March 7, 1945

#### Illinois Gamma Zeta '40



**David Scott Terry**  
1st Lt., USAAF  
Killed in flight  
accident.  
Florida (WWII)  
October 22, 1943



**Fred Kelly Lawson Jr.**  
1st Lt., USA  
Killed in action.  
Luxembourg (WWII)  
February 7, 1945

#### Illinois Gamma Zeta '37



**Philo Nelson French IV**  
SSG, USAAF  
Killed in action.  
Texas (WWII)  
January 25, 1943

#### Illinois Gamma Zeta '41



**James Lewis Griffin**  
Maj., USAAF  
Killed in action.  
Cambridge, England  
(WWII)  
May 15, 1945



**William Edward Pulverman**  
2nd Lt., USA  
Killed in action.  
Netherlands (WWII)  
September 21, 1944

*(Continued on next page)*

## GOLD STAR MEMORIAL & CLASS OF 1965 50TH REUNION, cont.



**Robert Warren Wilkins**  
2nd Lt., USA  
Killed in flight accident.  
Cape Lookout, Oregon (WWII)  
August 2, 1943

### Illinois Gamma Zeta '54



**Richard Charles O'Keefe**  
Cpl., USA  
Killed in action.  
North Korea (KOREA)  
July 23, 1953

### Illinois Gamma Zeta '61



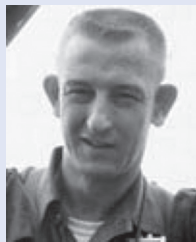
**Wayne Edward Pearson**  
Maj., USAF  
Killed in action.  
Laos (VIETNAM)  
February 22, 1966

### Illinois Gamma Zeta '43



**John Thayer Rusher**  
PFC, USA  
Nonbattle casualty.  
Manila, Philippines (WWII)  
December 13, 1945

### Illinois Gamma Zeta '56



**Charles Edward Barnett**  
CDR, USN  
Killed in action.  
Nam Dinh, North Vietnam (VIETNAM)  
June 23, 1972

### Illinois Gamma Zeta '65



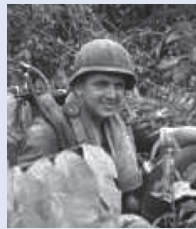
**John Bruce Capel**  
2nd Lt., USMC  
Killed in action.  
Republic of Vietnam (VIETNAM)  
May 12, 1966

### Illinois Gamma Zeta '44



**Willard "Bud" Sydenham Dodsworth**  
AM3, USN  
Missing in action  
China Sea northwest of Manila, Philippines (WWII)  
May 19, 1945

### Illinois Gamma Zeta '59



**Carson Gregory Culleton**  
Sgt., USA  
Died from wounds received in action.  
Dau Tieng, South Vietnam (VIETNAM)  
July 25, 1968

*"A Moment of Silence, a Moment of Summons, Is Their Deliverance of Body And Soul to a Sacred Place That We All Know Deep In the Shrines of Our Soul:*

*In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers  
In Our Minds For All Time"*

*A Tribute to Veterans  
~ Jerry Calow*

### Illinois Gamma Zeta '45



**George Gerdwood Clark Jr.**  
ENS, USN  
Nonbattle casualty.  
Newport, R.I. (WWII)  
April 12, 1946



**Richard Lawrence Koffarnus**  
Lt., USN  
Killed in flight accident.  
Cross City, Fla. (VIETNAM)  
August 17, 1976

We welcome the Class of 1965 to join us on Oct. 2-3, 2015, to memorialize these brothers.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, cont.

Finally, based upon significantly improved operations and the confidence that we have in our current membership and their leadership, I'm pleased to announce that we have initiated plans for a capital campaign to raise much-needed funds for improvements to our chapter house. It has been over 20 years since we have made structural improvements,

and it's important that we step up to this now. We will be starting with a focus group meeting and will have much more to report at Homecoming and throughout the fall.

As always, we can use more help. If you'd be willing to step up in any way, please reach out to me (847-736-6013, [kluesjack@yahoo.com](mailto:kluesjack@yahoo.com)) or any BOT member. I am looking

forward to seeing you at one or more of the many events that we have planned in the upcoming months which are listed in this newsletter. We'll see you at Homecoming on Oct. 24!



## A COMMITMENT TO SERVE

### Gamma Zeta Illustrates Focus on Community Service

#### Yearlong Events Honor Fallen Brothers & Lift Up ATO Families

#### ATOs and Pikes Team to Raise More Than \$2200 for Illini Veterans!

On Monday, April 27, Gamma Zeta ATO beat Pikes 3-2 in a charity hockey match to benefit Illini Veterans. More than 300 fans attended the match, and more than \$2,200 was raised to be donated to Illini Veterans!! Great job, guys, in working with Pikes to benefit this important organization and thanks to **Brett Freedland '16** for the leadership to pull this off!

#### Gamma Zetas Devote More Than 60 Hours to Hope Center in Champaign

The Hope Center food pantry in Champaign, Ill., was in desperate need of some renovation and upkeep. The interior was worn down, and the walls were in bad shape. Gamma Zetas decided to step in. BOT member **Norm Bilsbury '92** plays an active role in Hope Center and offered to have the undergraduates



of Gamma Zeta help. Over the course of three days, the members of the Gamma Zeta Chapter put in more than 60 hours of combined community service, helping to paint the interior of the center. At the end of the week, we were pleased to hear that our work had paid off and that the Hope Center was grateful for our help.

#### Mom's Day Auction Raises \$5,650 for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

The brothers and their mothers participated in the annual Mom's Day auction which was hosted by **Jack Polancich '15** and **George Adams '15**. Items that were sold included an ATO-inscribed box of cigars, an ATO bean bag set and several gift baskets — just to name a few. The auction raised a whopping \$5,650, all of which will go towards the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Thanks to

the ATO moms for their generous support!!

#### Gamma Zetas Help Raise \$100K+ at LLS Poker Run/Boating for a Cure Event!

Gamma Zetas are Gold Level Sponsors of LLS Poker Run/Boating for a Cure event. On Saturday, August 8, the chapter participated in the fifth Leukemia, Lymphoma Society Poker Run/ Boating for a Cure event for which they were a Gold Level Sponsor. Gamma Zeta's generous donations and volunteer work helped raise over \$100,000 at this year's event.

**Dante Ciccone '02** was the co-chair. **Justin Ross '02** and **Joe Patrevito '02.5** were on the organizing committee of this very cool event.

A special thank you to undergraduates **Matt Stemper**, **Mike Weinstein**, **Austin Okuno**, **Joe Binkowski** and **Gaetano Urgo** who volunteered their time at a this year's event. Also thanks to the ATO moms who donated over \$5,000 at last spring's Mom's Day auction which was contributed to this event! **Tim Wentink '00.5** lost his father, Ken Wentink, to leukemia and has been an active participant in the Poker Run since 2010. The Wentink family graciously gave \$3,000 this year to help support the cause to beat blood cancers.

#### Honduras 2015 – “Paul and Joe Were Perfect for the Team”

**Dr. Seth Berl '78** has been leading medical/dental mission trips to Honduras for nearly 20 years. **Dr. Tom Sullivan '78** has been participating for the last three. This year, two Gamma Zeta undergrads and now, new alums, **Paul Jaroslawski '15** and **Joe Pearson '15**, joined the team sponsored by generous donations from many Gamma Zeta alumni Here's what Seth had to say about Paul and Joe ...

*“Paul and Joe were perfect for the team. We asked them what they would like to do, and their response was ‘anything you need.’ We hear that response all the time, and we ask a few more questions and get each member to tell us what he really wants to do. Joe ended up in the pharmacy. That's not a hard job, but many consider it boring. Joe did not think it was boring at all. He loved the pharmacy. Paul was assigned to help the dentists and did a great job. Neither ever complained. When they got caught up in their area of work, both would go around*

*asking us if we needed any help. We always need help. If additional ATOs come and are the quality of Joe and Paul, I will be happy as I will know we have an unselfish worker that puts the patients in front of their own needs.”*

Great work Paul and Joe!!



#### Annual RGS Foundation Golf Outing

This year's golf outing was held on Saturday, August 15, at the Carillon Golf Course in Plainfield. This annual event honors and remembers **R. Greg Swedo '96** who was tragically killed by a drunk driver. **Matt Massucci '96** was the coordinator.

We had 110+ golfers and a great group of volunteers. In total, we raised over \$10,000, putting our 14-year total at \$250,000. We awarded our 11th scholarship this year!

We added a new twist this year —the addition of the **Matt Heldman '98** Trophy awarded to the highest-finishing ATO team. In total, 10 of the 27 foursomes were in the hunt for the trophy, including four undergrads (a special thanks to **Bill Barry '77** for sponsoring the undergrad team).

Congrats to **John Bucklar '96** for winning this year! There was a tie at -15, which included **Brian Grady**, **Andy Clark** and **Chip Aubry**. They lost in the 150-yard shoot-out.



John also put together a video with pictures and music full of mid '90s classics. To view it, go to <https://atoillinois.com/category/community-service/>.

## FALL 2015 EVENTS

### Join Us This Fall for a Full Schedule of Gamma Zeta Events!

We have an incredible line-up of events for the rest of this summer and through the fall with many opportunities for you to catch up with your Gamma Zeta friends, starting with:

**The '70s – 60th Birthday Party will be held at the Highline Bar and Lounge in Chicago on Saturday, September 26.** Three '77s – **Bill “BB” Barry, John “Snake” Hook** and **Dane Luhrsen** share a birthday on September 25, and BB's brothers — Raunch, **Carp (Bruce) '80**, Buck and **Dog (Dan) '84** are hosting.

**The Class of 1965 – 50th Reunion will be held on Saturday, October 3 in Champaign.** We'll be dedicating a memorial display to our 22 Gold Star brothers in the library of the chapter house that day. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please see pages 3-4 for profiles of those brothers who made the ultimate sacrifice to our country

**“The Chief and the University” ATO Networking Lunch will be held on Friday, October 9, in Chicago at the Highline Bar & Lounge (169 W. Kinzie St.).** Former Chief Illiniwek (and Thomas Arkle Clark Award Winner) **Bill Forsyth '86** and former Chairman of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees **Larry Eppley '82** will be our

featured guests. They'll share their unique perspectives on the Chief and answer your questions. Mark your calendars now and watch our website for additional details on what is sure to be a fun and interesting event!

**The Gamma Zeta Classes of '57 and '58 Reunion and 80th Birthday Party will be held in Scottsdale, Ariz., on October 15-18.** They are expecting 30 attendees. This has been a very active group, and this will be their 10th reunion since the mid '90s. They



**Classes of '57 and '58 during their 2014 Cape Cod reunion.**

are planning appropriate activities such as Ensure chug-a-luging, wheelchair racing, cane fighting, Depends changing and competitive eye-chart reading.

**Homecoming and Class of '80 35th Reunion is Saturday, October 24,** and we'll

host a great lunch at the chapter house. Join us for a full agenda of activities at the house including recognition of the Class of '80 and our undergraduate scholarship winners. We'll also be holding our BOT Annual Meeting on Friday evening at the chapter house, and all are invited.

**The Illini football team travels to Soldier Field on Saturday, November 28, for the Illini vs. NW at Soldier Field – Illini Greek Reunion.** Our own **John “Sanch” Aymond '80** who represents us on the GACBA (Greek Alumni Council Board of Advisors) is behind this event, and we're counting on a huge ATO presence. Please order your tickets through the link provided online so that you'll be placed in the ATO Block at Soldier Field.

**Finally, we will hold our 25th Annual Holiday Happy Hour on Friday, December 18, in Chicago (location TBA).** This is always a lot of fun, and attendance has been growing each year. Get it on your calendar now!

All of the details for each of these events can be found on our website: <https://atoillinois.com/events>. Hope to see you all at one or more of these fun events.

### “The Chief and the University” ATO Networking Lunch Friday, October 9, Chicago

As highlighted in the article above, we are planning an October 9 networking lunch featuring Former Chief Illiniwek (and Thomas Arkle Clark Award Winner) **Bill Forsyth '86** and former Chairman of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees **Larry Eppley '82**.

You may recall that Brother Forsyth was featured in a May 2013 ATO Illinois article where Bill reveals some of his personal experiences serving as the Chief.

“In order to maintain the amazing privileges of the Chief, Forsyth had to comply with the traditions to show respect to the role and Native Americans.



“The Chief could be removed at any time for unbecoming conduct, so I was very careful not to disrespect the tradition or the role,” Forsyth stated.

We encourage you to read the full article about Brother Forsyth's experience on our website at <https://atoillinois.com/bill-forsyth-86-former-chief-illiniwek-sharing-opinions-based-on-lifetime-experience/>.

And, please join us on Friday, October 9, for this important event. Watch for specific location and time details in the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing you.

### Career Development

One of the most important things we can do as a fraternity is support our undergraduate members as mentors and with internship opportunities. We've added a new undergraduate role as VP of Career Development and this year Joe Kleinhans '16 will be filling that spot. In support of Joe, **Dan Passarella '13** (dpassarella16@gmail.com) will be driving the mentor program. We'll need 30+ new alumni mentors for our next pledge class. If you would be willing to help out, please reach out to Dan. **Jim McGuffin '96** (jmcguffin@2020-4.com) will be leading the internship matching program. If your company offers internships for college students and you can help point our guys in the right direction, please reach out to Jim.

## ALUMNI NEWS

### Thomas Arkle Clark 1890 Inducted Into Illinois Fraternity and Sorority Hall of Fame

On Saturday, May 2, our initiate #1 Thomas Arkle Clark 1890 was inducted into the University of Illinois Fraternity and Sorority Hall of Fame along with four other distinguished Greek alumni including Roberta Shields of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Peg Crawford of Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority, Bob Dudley of Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity and Burton Baskin of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity. Thomas Arkle Clark was a remarkable man.

Please check the full article on our website.

**Jack Klues '77, Dane Luhrsen '77, Mitchell Talbot '17, Billy Hanson '16 and Thomas Wolfe '16** accepted on behalf of Gamma Zeta ATO.

The University of Illinois Fraternity and Sorority Hall of Fame is in its second year and is overseen by the Order of Omega honor society. It was a nicely done ceremony and included very worthy inductees.



L-R: Dane Luhrsen '77, Billy Hanson '16, Thomas Wolfe '16, Mitchell Talbot '17 and Jack Klues '77.

## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

### SHOW BUSINESS

**Alan Dysert '73** produces "The Senator"

**Jeff McGill '73** stars in "Wintertime in Champaign"

### ACADEMICS

**Matt Dixon '11** awarded J.D. Sinnock Law Scholarship

### SPORTS



**Bill Altenberger '56** inducted into the Illinois HS Basketball Hall of Fame

**John Wright '69** selected to Wheaton High School Hall of Fame



**Robb Rugg '79** selected to Naperville Central HS Athletic Hall of Fame

**Steve Weissenstein '83** inducted into Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame!

**Mike Small '88** – *Golfweek* coaches poll: Voted best in game by peers, Big Ten and NCAA National Coach of the Year



**Dr. Michael Terry '93** wins third Stanley Cup ring as team doc for Chicago Blackhawks

### BUSINESS

**Tom A. Clark '42** receives ATO Diamond

Circle Certificate from via **Gary Legwold '72** **Stephen Corn '66** named 2015 Illinois Super Lawyer

**Greg Scott '76** named Director of Facilities Management for Able Services

**Don "DA" Armstrong '77** chaired NM Annual Meeting in Milwaukee



**Dr. Tom McGarrity '77** publishes "Divine Power Speaks with the Buddha"

**Jeff Whitnell '78** named CFO of zuChem

**John Perconti '79** named 2015 Illinois Top 100 Super Lawyer!

**Dr. David Teuscher '81** named 83rd President of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

**Bill Rolander's '83** company, The John Buck Company, announces plans to build new 32-story office tower in the west loop

**Mike Buchner '83**, CEO of Fallon, named Ad Age "Comeback Agency of the Year"

**Mark Daniel '90** recognized with Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce Award!

**Dave Krug '95** appears on Travel Channel Showiiuuuyu

**Chris Callahan '97** named CEO of Sayers

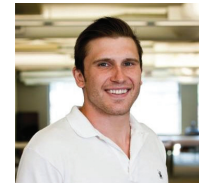
**Hunter Davis '01** opens Promptmed Urgent Care in Waukegan

**Chad Matesi's '02** business, Core Campus, wins three awards for student housing projects

**Jeff Scolaro '04.5** named Super Lawyers Rising Star list for the third year in a row

**Michael LaVitola '09** named in Chicago's 15 On-Demand Startups Making Life Easier in Chicago

**Kyle Cushing '11** named in the Top 20 Chicago Startup Founders Under 30!



### COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Mike Houlihan '73** honored with 2014 Paraquad Shine the Light Award

**Bill "BB" Barry '77** honored at All Stars Project of Chicago at Partners with Youth Benefit Luncheon

### POLITICS / PUBLIC SERVICE

**Tom "TSquared" Tunney '77** sworn in for another term as alderman of the 44th Ward in Chicago

**Dave "Dske" Lauschke '78** elected to Alton School Board



**Bruce "Carp"**

**Barry '80** elected to Taylorville Board of Education

See all of our alumni news on our website: <https://atoillinois.com>.