

The Latest and Greatest from House Corporation

House Corporation has several new members on the team that will help expand our coverage and ability to provide the necessary resources to both the undergrads and the alumni. Specifically, some of the initiatives and areas that we are developing are outlined below.

The first initiative is a Communication Program. As you may be aware, we have retained an outside public relations firm to assist Gamma Zeta in its communication efforts. We recognize the need to keep alumni informed of the activities at both the undergrad level and the alumni level. If you have any information that you would like to share, please let us know and we can facilitate it through newsletters, email distributions and the website.

Another initiative is the Golf Outing. We are in the process of planning the Fourth Annual Matt Heldman Memorial Golf Outing, which is tentatively scheduled for August 6, 2004. This event provides a great opportunity for alumni to catch-up with other alums and undergrads. Further information will be provided, as we are still finalizing the plans for this summer.

We are also working on the Pledge Class Challenge. In an effort to enhance the physical attributes of the house, the House Corporation would like to offer any alumni and/or pledge class the opportunity to petition a room in the house. In return, we would rename the room after the respective alumni/pledge class and dedicate a plaque stating the specific donors. *Any room in the house may be selected.* Please contact me if you are interested. I would like to thank **Tom Minner '78** and **Bob Lundstedt '78** for sponsoring Room 2. We will be working closely with Tom and Bob to renovate the room this summer.

On behalf of the House Corporation team, I thank you for your commitment and continued interest in Gamma Zeta. If you have any questions regarding the chapter, contributions or contacting fellow brothers, please do not hesitate to contact me.

VTL,

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Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity
University of Illinois
April 2004

Fond

Memories

By Ralph S. Groves

Hip! Hip! College Years

Beyond a doubt, my college days spent at the University of Illinois were one of the happiest times of my life. Young, carefree, not a worry in my life. Fraternity life – pretty girls and a drive to live life to its fullest. Having been very athletic in my high school years, I decided to enter the field of Physical Education and ultimately became one of the best Coaches ever. My parents thought different and advised that if I expected any financial support from them, I would enroll and study in the field of commerce. I pleaded with them that this was not my calling but to no avail and I enrolled in the field of commerce. It soon became very obvious that I was not deemed to be an accountant.

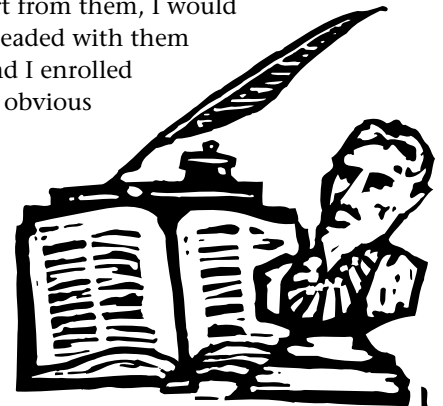
My first semester was a disaster and my flunking accounting 101 and college algebra plus a note from the Dean stating I should soon pack up my clothes and head home, finally made my parents a believer and they allowed me to enroll the second semester in the school of Physical Education, which was much more to my liking and proved so. Years later a friend of mine related this story to me which confirmed that I had made the right decision:

A CPA accountant had worked for a firm many years, a devoted employee, very respected and soon to retire. His cohorts each day noted that on his arrival at the office he would go directly to his desk, open the drawer, take out a small piece of paper, read it, and then replace it. Needless to say, they were very curious as to the contents of this paper and were soon to find out as his retirement party was quite a success and he bid his working companions farewell. They all rushed over to his desk, opened the drawer and removed the paper. It read simply as follows "The debit side is toward the window."

With my parents help, I had joined a fraternity. Many happy days were spent in the many activities these fraternities participate in. Unbelievable today, the cost of one semester at the University of Illinois was \$35.00, my monthly charge at the Fraternity was \$50.00 and included room and board plus hundreds

of activities, such as sporting events, fancy dinners, dances at our Fraternity and Sororities, pep rallies were many and of course, last but not least, many hours of studying under a watchful eye of an upper class mate. This life I could lead forever, but came to a halt as Uncle Sam had his eye on me and soon I was inducted into the Army.

One experience which has remained forever in my mind I will relate to you, as I have many times to my daughter, granddaughter and they double over with laughter. Each fall the fraternity put on a Friday evening Fish Fry. A large moving



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Q+A with **Mark Van Zandt '02**

Young Graduate Finds ATO Basis for Strong Friendships and Network Opportunities

Why did you join Alpha Tau Omega?

In high school, I had an opportunity to visit the house and meet some of the guys, when I was visiting the campus. Right away, I knew they were a good group of guys. They seemed to be very well rounded, in the sense that they had their acts together academically and socially. They were involved in campus organizations and intramural athletics. They just seemed like a real well rounded group of guys. They made me feel accepted as a pledge, and it just seemed like an exciting opportunity. They were a well respected group of guys on campus. And everything turned out just like I thought.

What is your favorite memory of the fraternity?

I have lots of memories. The obvious one is just hanging around the house with the guys. And some of my fondest memories are from going on spring break together every year. Usually a group of 30 plus guys would go; each year, we went to a different place in Mexico. It was good to be out of Champaign, down south in the warm weather, relaxing and unwinding. It was not just a group from my class, but there were younger guys and older guys and we would all go together.

What kind of influence has the fraternity had on your life since graduation?

It has undoubtedly had an influence. Even though I am only a few years out, the network of people you have is unbelievable and that's something you don't realize when you are an undergraduate. You don't realize how far-reaching the house is. In the Chicago business community alone, there are so many alumni here who are successful, well-respected guys who are great to know. The network of guys you get

is phenomenal. I am also fortunate enough to have a large number of my pledge brothers who live nearby, so I am able to hang out with a big group of friends every weekend. That is something some people would take for granted. You just don't realize until you get out that the benefits of the fraternity go well beyond your four years down there.

With whom do you stay in contact? Is there anyone you have lost touch with whom you would like to find?

My roommate now is **Jeff Williams '02**; I've known him since before high school. I could give you a huge list! **Matt Katsaros '02, Tom Bruce '02, Ryan Anthony '02, Justin Ross '02.** **Dave Mazurek '02** is another good friend of mine, who is playing minor league ball and just left for spring training. There's a whole bunch of us who get together on a regular basis. That's just a short list.

Were there any other activities or organizations you were involved with during your college days?

I was on the hockey team and was a risk management monitor on the Inter-fraternity Council. I was also involved in the Study Abroad Program and lived in London for a little over two months. It was one of the better experiences of my life.

Did you have a nickname? How did you get it?

The nicknames I had were Vano or VZ.

Did you live in the house? If so, who were your roommates? Tell us about a memorable time with them.

Yes, I lived in the house for two years and then lived my senior year in what was called our senior house. That was with 17 other guys. It was called The Palace, but it is no longer.

That's probably a good thing because it draws guys away from the house. I did have roommates, **Dante Ciccone '02** and **Joe Walsh '02**. There were plenty of memorable times but I don't know how many I can divulge. When I lived with Joe, it was the second semester of our junior year and we just had a great time hanging out. Joe had an extensive movie and music collection, so he was a great guy to have as a roommate.

Can you tell us about your career?

I work in banking, specifically commercial real estate. I've been with LaSalle Bank since I graduated and it's going well.

What affiliations do you have and/or public service do you participate in?

When time permits, I have helped out with my brother's youth hockey program. I have also been involved in a program here at the bank called Junior Achievement, which young professionals are involved in. We give time and money to a variety of causes.

What hobbies do you enjoy?

I attempt to play golf, but I can't say I'm the

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From left: Ryan Anthony, Jeff Williams, Mark Van Zandt, and Justin Ross

Worthy Master

We're up to the challenge

As the 2003-2004 school year continues, the men of Gamma Zeta of Alpha Tau Omega continue to excel and flourish in the rich tradition of excellence that is known to our chapter. As recipients of a True Merit Bowl last year, the Gamma Zeta men are in position to bring another home for the seventh consecutive year. The officers have just concluded a meeting with our National Leadership Consultant and everyone is working hard to win Top Chapter in the nation this year. We are also looking forward to Congress this summer in Atlanta, with five chapter members attending.

Moreover, Gamma Zeta is still the consistent social pillar on campus. We have a full social calendar planned for the spring semester. This includes exchanges with the ladies of Kappa Kappa Gamma, Sigma Delta Tau and Gamma Phi Beta. Additionally, we have numerous impromptus and other events scheduled. We will also be continuing in our annual Brotherhood paintball outing after Spring Break. Further annual events such as Spring Bash and Mom's Day are also scheduled.

This semester the men at Gamma Zeta have a renewed zeal for philanthropy, having been recharged by the release of ATO Road-Show 11, The National's DVD featuring Gamma Zeta as the Host Chapter and highlighting GZ's philanthropic accomplishments and positive impact on the University community.

The continuing success of Gamma Zeta is a direct reflection of the tireless support of our alumni. The undergraduates would like to thank all of those who continue to support our house through their committed time, money and effort. Personally, I would like to thank all of those who have offered advice and support throughout my term as president. Again, if anyone wishes to contact the house with suggestions or questions, please contact me at 217.778.9960 or eversden@uiuc.edu. ■

Q+A with Mark Van Zandt '02

(Continued from Page 2)

greatest. I like to be outdoors, traveling and spending time on the weekend with my friends. I also enjoy a softball league with people from work. And I still get out and play a little hockey.

Do you have any goals for the next few years?

My goal right now is to learn as much as I can about the industry I'm in. I am very career-focused at this point in my life. That takes center stage right now. I'd like to progress quickly and build a network of contacts. I am trying to learn as much as I can and take advantage of the resources I have. Outside of my professional life, I'm hoping to stay as close to all of my friends as I am right now. I am fortunate to have such a close group of friends around here and I hope that doesn't change. It's probably naïve to think it won't, as people start getting married and that kind of thing. But I still hope to stay close to the people who have been important in my life for the past six years. No matter what happens with my career, that is another priority.

Brothers who want to get in contact can email marktvanzandt@yahoo.com. ■

Lord & Taylor Chairman

The May Department Stores announced the promotion of Richard V. Clausing '76 to Chairman of Lord & Taylor. Mr. Clausing joined May's corporate office in 1988 as director of accounting and was promoted to vice president of corporate accounting and reporting in 1989. He was named senior vice president of finance at the St. Louis-based Famous-Barr division in 1994 and assumed his current position as senior vice president of finance at Lord & Taylor, based in New York, in 2001. Originally from Arlington Heights, IL, Mr. Clausing received a B.S. degree in accounting from the University of Illinois. He and his wife, Amy, have two children.

McMillan Chicago Illini of the Year

The Chicago Illini of the Year Award recognizes the accomplishments of prominent and well-respected Illinois alumni in the Chicago area, particularly those who have made a significant impact on the local community. The awards program is co-sponsored by the University of Illinois Alumni Association and the Chicago Illini Club, and will be held April 22, 2004, at the University Club, 76 E. Monroe St., Chicago. Cary McMillan '80 BUS is currently serving as Chief Executive Officer of Sara Lee Branded Apparel Division. Mr. McMillan, former managing partner for Arthur Andersen's Chicago office, joined the Sara Lee Corp. as chief financial and administrative officer in 1999. Since 2001, he has served as CEO for Sara Lee's worldwide branded apparel business, which is now the company's largest revenue producer. He is also an influential patron of the arts in the Chicago community and sits on the boards of the Chicago Art Institute, Chicago Symphony, Roosevelt University, Millennium Park and others.

Orange Krush Heldman Fund

After five years, the Orange Krush has fulfilled its \$250,000 commitment to Illinois' Matthew Heldman Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Illinois student section/charity foundation honored Heldman one more time. At halftime of the Illinois-Michigan game on January 31st, the Orange Krush presented a \$250,000 check for the scholarship fund to Linda Heldman, Matt's mother. Matt Heldman '98, a Gamma Zeta and former Illinois point guard known for his heart and hustle, was killed in a car accident in 1999. The Orange Krush began the endowment in 1999 and completed it last year. The GZ House Corporation has raised an additional \$30,000 for the Matt Heldman Memorial Scholarship Fund and awards a significant scholarship to one Gamma Zeta each year deserving of this honor. ■

Fond

Memories

(Continued from Page 1)

van was rented and all 50 of us, including our dates, would head out to a local park. On this occasion I was very blessed as a friend of mine had fixed me up with a blind date. I couldn't believe it - a beautiful girl studying to be a model at a school in St. Louis, Missouri. I was elated and elected to be on my best behavior to impress this beauty. The Fish Fry was great. Much beer to drink and all the fish and french fries one could put away. My fraternity buddies and I were all in a good mood and we decided to top off our evening of fun with a visit to a carnival being held on the outskirts of Illinois. It was a large carnival and offered many rides. About this time my stomach was starting to talk to me about the large amount of beer, fish, and french fries I had consumed. My date let out a squeal of happiness when she saw the ride "Tilt a Wheel." Her mind made up, we had to go on this ride. Very reluctantly I agreed. They locked us in the cage, strapped us in, and we began to whirl back and forth, higher and higher each time and finally completed a 360° arch. My date was squealing with delight. Me, I had become very quiet. The next trip around they stopped the car at the highest point and we were hanging upside down, my date, laughing, turned to me and said "Oh, Ralph, give me a kiss." Well, I did, but it was a kiss of vomit as my stomach could no longer hold all that beer, food, etc. I can vaguely remember seeing beer, fish and fries slowly floating to the ground. The girl screamed - and not one of delight. Needless to say that ended our evening and any further contact. And, to this day, I bet that beautiful girl still tells the tale of a character who threw up all over the "Tilt-A-Wheel." So much for my College Days. ■

Alumni

UpDates

Robert E Vogele '48

(4116 Gilbert Ave, Western Springs, IL 60558-1236) I retired on December 31, 2002 from my design firm and also stepped down as Chairman of the International Senepture Center. Ruth and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary September 20, 2002 at the Milwaukee Art Museum, which concurrently exhibited 70 works of art we have donated to them over the past 10 years. We are both in good health and have recently bought a home in Sun City Grand for a place to be from January through April.

What's New With You?

trips ... adventures ... new job ... family news ... reunions ... photos old and new (and yes, we'll return them) ... favorite memories ... brothers you would like to see? Let us know! Send your brothers an update at the alumni relations address below, and it can be published in the next edition of *Gamma Zeta News*. ■

Reunion Announcement

A reunion is being scheduled for the pledge class initiated in 1984 (84's and 84.5's), their spouses and families on Homecoming weekend. The schedule of events includes a golf outing on Friday, October 29. Please contact Todd Swikle at todd.swikle@hp.com if you are interested. There will be a brunch at the house as well as the football game on Saturday October 30. For those events, please contact Gamma Zeta house officers. On Saturday night, a dinner will be held at Kennedy's. Please contact Brett Smith at ubc@uiuc.edu by September 1 to reserve your spot. ■

Gamma Zeta News is published for the alumni and friends of the **Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity at The University of Illinois**. Address changes, news items, photographs and contributions may be sent in the enclosed envelope; mailed to **Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, Alumni Relations Office, P.O. Box 3244, Oak Brook, IL 60522-3244**.

... and more!

- Pledge Class undertakes a challenge
- August 6 Golf Outing coming soon
- Better alumni communication

In this issue ...

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