

Where Does Your Pledge Class Stand?

The amounts listed below represent how much each pledge class has raised as of March 28, 2005.

1935	.....	\$75
1938	.....	\$150
1939	.....	\$275
1940	.....	\$50
1941	.....	\$50
1942	.....	\$150
1943	.....	\$200
1944	.....	\$75
1945	.....	\$50
1946	.....	\$25
1947	.....	\$975
1948	.....	\$550
1949	.....	\$275
1950	.....	\$75
1951	.....	\$55
1952	.....	\$300
1953	.....	\$100
1955	.....	\$200
1956	.....	\$375
1957	.....	\$100
1958	.....	\$1,225
1959	.....	\$25
1962	.....	\$50
1963	.....	\$25
1965	.....	\$400
1967	.....	\$200
1968	.....	\$555
1969	.....	\$110
1970	.....	\$200
1972	.....	\$415
1974	.....	\$700
1975	.....	\$1,220
1976	.....	\$705
1977	.....	\$25
1978	.....	\$5,050
1979	.....	\$100
1980	.....	\$50
1985	.....	\$100
1986	.....	\$400
1987	.....	\$400
1988	.....	\$50
1990	.....	\$125
1991	.....	\$225
1992	.....	\$45
1993	.....	\$150
1994	.....	\$150
1995	.....	\$225
1996	.....	\$120
1997	.....	\$1,170
1998	.....	\$25
1999	.....	\$300
Unknown	.....	\$100
Grand Total	.....	\$18,745



Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity
University of Illinois

<http://www.atoillinois.com/>

April 2005

President's Report

Focus on Communications!

The house corporation team, consisting of some new members and several familiar faces, is off and running as of spring 2005. At our winter meeting held on January 18, we discussed the direction of our board for the next several years. Most importantly, we want to improve the lines of communication among our vast alumni network here in Chicago, nationally and abroad.

If you haven't done so already, please visit our updated Web site at **www.atoillinois.com** and be sure to register so we can add you to our database. This great tool, which is administered by Affinity Connection Inc. and managed internally by our communications chair **Jeff Williams '99**, is key to improving our communication and will be essential in keeping you abreast of Gamma Zeta news and events in the future.

A few additional items of note:

- **Communication Program** – We continue to strive to keep alumni informed of the activities at both the undergraduate and the alumni levels. If you have any information you would like to share, please let us know and we can facilitate that through newsletters, e-mail distributions and the Web site. Contact **Jeff Williams** at jbw1@ntrs.com.
- **Cubs Rooftop Outing** – **Bill Barry '74**, **Dane Luhrsen '74** and host **Tom Tunney '74** have arranged for a Gamma Zeta rooftop outing to watch the Cubs vs. Rockies on Saturday, May 28 (game time 12:00 p.m.). The requested donation is \$200 per adult; friends and family are welcome. Please contact Bill (312-580-6553, barryb@draperandkramer.com) or Dane (630-638-8572, dane.luhrsen@gartner.com) for more information or to RSVP. Space is limited. Special thanks to Bill, Dane and Tom for organizing this great event!

- **Golf Outing** – We are planning the fifth annual Matt Heldman Memorial Golf Outing. This event provides a great opportunity for alumni to catch up with other alumni and undergraduates and to raise money for a great cause. Although a date has not been determined, we have bracketed a Friday in early to mid-August for this year's event. Further information will be provided very soon and posted on our Web site. Please direct questions or suggestions to this year's golf outing chairs, **Dante Ciccone '99** (dciccone13@yahoo.com) and **Ryan Anthony '99** (ranthony@hllz.com).

- **Pledge Class Challenge** – In an effort to enhance the physical attributes of the house, the house corporation continues to offer any alumni and/or pledge class the opportunity to petition a room in the house. In return, we will rename the room after the alumni/pledge class and dedicate a plaque stating the specific donors. Any room in the house may be selected. Room 2 was recently the first room completed under this program! Please contact **Jeff Piper '97** (jsp@svoco.com) for more information. See the list to the left to see where your pledge class stands!

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 at mark.van.zandt@morganstanley.com or 312-706-4471.

VTL,

Mark T. Van Zandt '99
House Corporation President ■

Report "Work Hard, Play Hard" at Gamma Zeta

The spring 2005 semester is well underway here at the University of Illinois, and the men of Gamma Zeta are on their way to another successful semester. This is my first full semester as worthy master – I look forward to carrying on the tradition of excellence that separates us from the rest of the field.

The campus has been buzzing with the recent success of the Fighting Illini men's basketball team. No doubt this is one of the greatest things to happen here at Illinois. Every game is exciting and watched intensely campus-wide.

Also, it has brought us closer together as brothers. For big games such as Wisconsin, Iowa and Michigan State, we held brotherhood events at the house: Everyone came to the front rooms, and we arranged the couches so we all could watch the game together on the big screen. It was a great experience that we all were lucky to share together.

The success brought many alumni back to the house on game days. It is really special to see you guys walking through the house with your families. We will always welcome you back.

At the present time, Gamma Zeta is still the leader on campus, with undergraduate members involved in everything from the Interfraternity Council to being managers for the men's basketball team. We recently initiated the '08 pledge class, a fantastic group of young men, and followed that up with a great spring rush.

Recruitment has always been a staple at Gamma Zeta, and we continue the trend of always getting the best of the best. In

addition, we have a new group of officers that have stepped up as leaders in the house, setting some big goals for the semester.

The philanthropy team has a lot of exciting things planned for the upcoming semester. As usual, we will be holding our semiannual American Red Cross blood drive. In addition, this semester we will also organize a 16-inch softball event, a bowling tournament and a brand-new philanthropy called TAUction, for which we will invite women over to the house to bid on their favorite Taus. All the money raised for this event will go toward leukemia research.

"Work hard, play hard" is a philosophy we are proud of in this chapter. This spring, in addition to bar crawls and impromptus, we had exchanges with the women of Kappa Alpha Theta, Gamma Phi Beta and Kappa Kappa Gamma. For spring break, groups of brothers visited Acapulco, Myrtle Beach and Arizona for spring training. Also, Formal Weekend is planned in Lake Geneva, and many brothers are excited to experience that for the first time.

The men of Gamma Zeta thank our alumni for their tireless support. Those who continue to give back to the house by contributing their time and money are much appreciated and respected. If anyone would like to contact me with any questions, thoughts or concerns, please call me at 217-384-3446 or e-mail me at mabrown2@uiuc.edu.

VTL,

Matt Brown '06 ■

Results

ATO Plays Important Role in Building Integrity and Character

Some people in today's society may think it's old-fashioned to discuss morality and integrity, but the reality is that good morals, good manners and good behavior will never go out of style. On college campuses, fraternities and sororities offer a great foundation for developing these ideals.

While it must be acknowledged that some Greek organizations fall woefully short in this regard, and that many — maybe most — have experienced at least a few challenging incidents, the Greek system is still driven by values-based programs.

Learning about responsibility, honesty, courtesy, respect, justice, community service, philanthropy, academic achievement, cooperation, diversity and tolerance is simply part of what it means to go Greek. Long-standing codes of conduct are in place to uphold these cherished values, and new members are instilled with the importance of maintaining their organization's venerable traditions and good reputation.

Peer pressure of the right kind has a positive impact. Since the actions of each individual reflect on the group as a whole, members influence each other to do right. They encourage each other to strive for good grades and to contribute to the welfare of the group and the community, and they discipline those who step out of line.

In fact, far more behavioral guidance is evidenced in Greek houses than in the average dormitory or student-occupied apartment building, not just through peer pressure but also through the steady influence of each chapter's board of directors, the codes of conduct endorsed by each organization's national office, the campus's interfraternity council and, most important, the active support of each chapter's alumni.

The results are remarkable:

- Greeks often outperform the general student population in academics, with many

Greek organizations mandating higher grade averages from their members than the averages among the rest of the student population.

- Greeks far surpass every other student demographic group when it comes to community involvement. They raise untold millions of dollars for charitable organizations and annually donate millions of hours of their time to worthy causes of all kinds, from Big Brothers/Big Sisters to Habitat for Humanity to local food banks, and so many more.
- Greek organizations are also training grounds for leadership, teamwork, problem solving and time management. Through chapter leadership positions, undergraduates develop advanced human relations skills that will be invaluable to them throughout their lives, both in business and in their personal relationships.

Statistics from the North-American Interfraternity Conference reveal that

Profile

Mark Zieba '97

"Successful Guys Surrounded Me and Motivated Me to Do My Best"

Making friends and enjoying college were two important criteria considered by **Mark Zieba '97** when he joined the fraternity as a first semester freshman. "My brother, **Matt [Zieba '95]**, is two years older than me and was an ATO at the University of Illinois. I met a lot of his friends in the house, and everyone seemed to get along well. I decided that joining was a good opportunity."

Mark's educational pursuits didn't end when he graduated in 2000 with a major in kinesiology from the University of Illinois at Champaign. He enrolled in the dental school at the University of Illinois in Chicago and graduated in May 2004. He is now a dentist in private practice at Webster Dental, 2829 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago. In addition to his brother Matt, who is the marketing director at ATI Physical Therapy in Chicago,

Mark remains close with many of his fraternity brothers. "Actually, there are too many to name so I won't try.

I don't want to leave out anyone."

Currently he and his brothers gather at The Schoolyard Tavern in Chicago, which is owned by alumnus **Matt Menna '90**, to cheer on the Illini. "There is always a good crowd of alumni to meet with and have a good time at Schoolyard."

He was active on the board while living in the house his last three years of college. "One of my favorite memories of fraternity life was the football block at each home game. The ATOs and members from a sorority got together beforehand at a bar and went to the football game together, sat together and cheered for the Illini." Mark labels his senior year as his favorite because he and 10 brothers decided to live in the house instead of moving out, which was tradition.

"Living in the house during senior year turned out to be a great decision, and I would encourage others to do the same."

Mark credits fraternity life with helping make him the person he is today. "The fraternity had a positive influence on my life. In the house, many successful guys surrounded me and that really motivated me to do the best I could. I wanted the same type of success." He remembers this and says the positive influence of his fraternity brothers continues to impact on his life, "because everybody I am around is always doing something new and big, and that makes me also want to succeed."

Although his college friends are still his best friends and they see each other almost every weekend, Mark says there were many guys he was close with while in college but, unfortunately, they have grown apart. "If any of those guys still live in the Chicago area or are traveling here,



Four brothers get together: **Ian Crelling '97, Joe Farinella '97, Mark Zieba '97 and Brian Hacias '97.**



please look me up – I would love for us to go out and get together."

The new dentist wants to continue to help his fraternity family in another way: He urges his brothers or their family members who are traveling to Chicago to contact him if they need dental help – especially if they don't have dental insurance or have a big procedure that needs to be done. "I will help them out any way I can." Mark can be contacted via e-mail at ziebamark@hotmail.com.

He plans to continue being active as an alumnus and makes the annual homecoming trek to campus, always stopping by the house to see how everything is going and to meet the new brothers. "Our fraternity has always been one of the strongest in Champaign. When I graduated it was one of the stronger houses, and I want to make sure they keep it going because all the alumni want to go back to a house that's on the top." ■

Remarkable Results

(continued from previous page)

nearly half of all U.S. presidents, 30 percent of members of Congress, 40 percent of U.S. Supreme Court justices and about 30 percent of Fortune 500 executives have Greek roots. How can two percent of the overall student population have become so dominant in public life? They have their character-building experiences in fraternities and sororities to thank for that.

From national headquarters to local chapters, Greek organizations demand that their undergraduate members be accountable, involved, hard-working and caring people. By providing nurturing environments with high behavioral expectations, fraternities and sororities are shaping the leaders and responsible citizens of the future.

Greek organizations do a tremendous amount of good — for their members and for society as a whole. The ongoing support of dedicated alumni is crucial to making it possible for Alpha Tau Omega to continue providing these worthwhile opportunities for current and future generations of Greeks. ■

Spring Break ... Alumni Style!

Spring break: A time-tested tradition of crowds of young people flocking to warmer climates looking to escape the pressures of that rough, stressful place known as college. Some of your best memories may have been made there — on the shores of Daytona Beach, Cancun or South Padre Island — but, chances are, you need that break more now than you did then...

While it's probably not practical for you to drop everything and run off to Mexico for a week, with a little planning you and your friends and family can find the stress relief you need.

Just the Guys:

It's a proven fact that men are bad at staying in touch, so a pledge-class reunion may be long overdue. Be the hero and get your fraternity friends together to relive old times.

- For adventurous types, finding fun in the outdoors is easy — hiking, biking and rock climbing activities are available almost anywhere in the United States. For trip-planning ideas, maps and other resources, visit www.wildernet.com.
- What better way to spend a weekend than by hitting the links with your buddies? Get your tournament team together to enjoy a challenging course or a relaxing resort. Visit www.resort-golf.com to view special golf packages at resorts nationwide.
- If you're a sports fan but not a fan of big crowds and overpriced concessions, consider making a trip to a Hall of Fame museum. Hit Cooperstown, N.Y., for baseball (www.baseballhalloffame.org) or Canton, Ohio, if you're more of a football guy (www.profootballhof.com).

Families:

Including children and families are the best way to ensure that your friendships become legacies. Round up the kids for a long weekend with your friends and their families.

- Live it up city-style in the nearest metropolis for great food, sightseeing and nightlife (don't forget to bring a babysitter). Museums, theaters and parks offer options for the whole family. Use www.citysearch.com as your guide to the country's major metropolitan areas.
- Camping is a great choice because it's affordable, and camping locations abound. Spend your days fishing or hiking, and the evenings around the campfire making s'mores.
- Hit the rollercoasters and the cotton-candy stand! Theme parks are the perfect family getaway. Go to www.themeparkinsider.com to read reviews of the nation's top parks.

Even if you only get together once or twice a year, you can make the time you spend with friends even better than it was in college! ■

Alumni UpDates

John M. Donohue '55

(2739 Lincoln St., Evanston, IL 60201-2042; johnmckd@aol.com) One of my very vivid memories of my pledge year at GZ is from the spring of 1956. Three old geezers, one of whom I knew, were presented with 50-year ATO certificates. At the time I thought it was a bit miraculous that anyone that old could ever have been young enough to go to college. Of course, now 49 years later, I find it miraculous that I was ever that young. Does GZ still present such certificates? Is it done at a luncheon as it was so long ago? If so, I presume this year that some of my old brothers will be around this spring and will be eligible. I would be delighted to drive down to Champaign to share in the happy event.

David L. Roberts '78

(7777 Forest Ln., C-104, Dallas, TX 75230; dave@robertsdds.com) I have been practicing dentistry (www.robertsdds.com) in Dallas since 1987. I just found out that my best friend from high school has a son (**Blake Jeffers**) who pledged the house. Now that is scary considering my kids are 3 years old and 1 year old.

Mark E. Struznik '92

(756 Jackson St., Denver, CO 80206; struznik@juno.com) I've been in Denver for nine years. I sell residential real estate for Coldwell Banker Devonshire and started a small office called Colorado Edge Realty (www.coloradoedgerealty.com). Always interested in partners!

Find Old College Friends

Alpha Tau Omega is your strongest link to Illinois and the friends you made there. **We're on a mission to gather all the e-mail addresses of our alumni.** This will help you stay in touch with old friends and reconnect with others. We'll work to keep the list current too, so you'll always know where you can find a brother's e-mail address. Only members of the Gamma Zeta Chapter will have access to this information.

You can update your address by visiting our Web site at <http://www.atoillinois.com> or by indicating any changes on the enclosed solicitation form. ■

*Read all about what your
brothers have been up to!
See inside!*

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