

The Challenge Has Been Met for Room 2, Many More to Go

Tom Minner '75 and **Bob Lundstedt '75** will never forget the good times they had in Room 2 of the Gamma Zeta chapter house. Now Room 2 will never "forget" them either.

Now officially known as the Minner/Lundstedt Room, it was the first bedroom to be completely renovated as part of the chapter's Pledge Class Challenge. The two former roommates accepted the challenge and donated \$5,000 to fix up the room. On Saturday, October 22, during homecoming, a brass plaque was installed outside the bedroom, naming it in Bob and Tom's honor.

The Pledge Class Challenge was introduced last year as a way to raise funds for the renovation and maintenance of the bedrooms. The work on Room 2 included new carpeting, window treatments and furniture. Bob and Tom were allowed to consult on the design of the room, which was overseen by one of the undergraduate members of the chapter.

With only one room completed and more than 40 in the house, that leaves plenty of — but not unlimited — opportunity for others to have their names memorialized. The plan's intent is for alumni contributions to cover the costs of room renovations as well as future maintenance. The minimum contribution is \$5,000; larger room designs are negotiable.

If you're interested in bringing your old room back to its former glory, or in keeping the bedrooms as attractive as the rest of the house, please consider accepting the Pledge Class Challenge.

For more information, call house corporation board member **Dave Krug '92** at 773-750-3706. ■



Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity
University of Illinois
www.atoillinois.com
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House Corporation Report

Many Accomplishments in Past Months

The past several months have been very busy for the house corporation team. The interaction between our board and the undergraduate brothers has led to some positive changes in Champaign, while the generosity of our great alumni network brought in more than \$30,000 at two events this summer.

Some highlights of note:

• **Cubs Rooftop Outing** — On Saturday, May 28, **Bill Barry '74**, **Dane Luhrsen '74** and **Tom Tunney '74** hosted a Gamma Zeta rooftop outing to watch the Chicago Cubs take on the Colorado Rockies at Wrigley Field. The event was a huge success and raised over \$15,000 that is being allocated to various capital projects at the chapter house. Thank you again to Bill, Dane, Tom and all those who attended this great event.

• **Matt Heldman Memorial Golf Outing** — Friday, August 5, marked the fifth annual Matt Heldman Memorial Golf Outing, which was held at the Ruffled Feathers Golf Club in Lemont, Ill. As expected, the outing was our best yet: More than 100 Gamma Zetas enjoyed an excellent golf course, a gorgeous day and a successful dinner/auction. Thanks to the generosity of those in attendance, our corporate sponsors and several donations, this year's outing raised over \$15,000 for the Matt Heldman Scholarship Fund. A special thank you goes to **Ryan Anthony '99** and **Dante Ciccone '99**, this year's co-chairs.



• **House Corporation/Undergraduate Retreat** — On Friday, October 7, the house corporation team traveled to Urbana to participate in a retreat with the undergraduates, which is an event that we hope to continue each semester. The retreat included an interactive meeting and dinner at the chapter house followed by a party at Gully's in Champaign. We discussed the current state of the house and outlined several goals for the 2005-06 school year. It was a great evening that was enjoyed by the house corporation team and the undergraduates alike.

• **Homecoming** — Despite the outcome of the Illinois vs. Penn State football game, homecoming on October 22 was once again a success. The undergraduates made sure the chapter house was in top shape for the alumni in town for the weekend. The highlight of the weekend was a cocktail party at the house on Saturday night, where those in attendance enjoyed catered appetizers, a tended bar and the new furniture recently purchased for the common rooms.

We are constantly seeking to improve our alumni network and encourage you to visit our updated Web site at www.atoillinois.com. This great



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tool, which is administered by Affinity Connection and managed internally by our communications chair, **Jeff Williams '99**, is key to improving our communications going forward and will be essential in keeping you abreast of Gamma Zeta news and events in the future.

On a personal note, in January I will be moving to New York to pursue a job opportunity. Although my tenure as house corporation president has been short-lived, it is necessary for me to step down in light of the relocation. Fortunately, I will be handing over the reins to the very capable **Jeff Piper '97**. Jeff and I have been in contact over the last several weeks, and I am extremely grateful for his willingness to take on this very important role. There couldn't be a more qualified and dedicated Gamma Zeta, and I look forward to the progress that will undoubtedly be made over the next few years.

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, wish to make a contribution or want to contact your fellow brothers, please do not hesitate to contact Jeff or me.

VTL,

Mark T. Van Zandt '99
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To contact **Jeff Piper '97**:
jsp@svoco.com
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Profile

Steve Stratton '71

'The Fraternity Was an Anchor'

Three years from now, the Chicago skyline is going to change as a new 60-story office tower rises on the Chicago River. Nearly half of the planned 1.3-million square feet of the tower has already been leased by Kirkland & Ellis, an international law firm, making this one of the single largest real estate deals in the history of Chicago. And it was an Alpha Tau Omega brother from the University of Illinois who made it happen.

Steve Stratton '71 is the regional president of The Staubach Company's Midwest corporate sales division, based in Chicago. The Staubach Company is a leading global real estate advisory firm, finding office solutions for large organizations. The firm's services include strategic consulting, site selection, acquisition, disposition, construction consulting and project management, real estate administration, portfolio management, financing and capital solutions.

As head of the Chicago office, Steve took the lead role in finding new office space for the corporate headquarters of Kirkland & Ellis. Following a thorough and thoughtful review of several Chicago options, he led them to the office tower under development by Hines, an international real estate firm. The deal was signed in August, after 20 months of study and negotiation.

With 32 years of experience in real estate, Steve specializes in the financing, leasing and development of corporate headquarters and financial institutions. In the past 10 years alone, he has been responsible for more than 300 real estate consulting assignments, with a value topping \$5 billion. He is easily recognized as one of the most prominent figures in the Chicago real estate market. But he is very quick to point out that he is not a one-man operation.

"My ability to work on a complicated project like the Kirkland & Ellis deal is a testament to The Staubach Company and its collective talent," he says. "I depend heavily on the people around me, all of whom are skilled and dedicated to the client. None of our deals could work without the great people we have working here, starting with Roger [former football great Roger Staubach], who leads with integrity. Our focus is on doing things right every day."

Steve's commitment to "doing things right" carries over to his private life as well. He serves on the board of the Illini Foundation for the University of Illinois, and is a member of the board of directors of the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation and the board of directors of the LaSalle Street Council.

He remains a great friend of the Alpha Tau

Omega chapter at the University of Illinois. "When they need assistance, I try to help," he says.

A Chicago-area native, Steve joined ATO in 1971 as a freshman because he wanted to be part of the fraternity life. "Alpha Tau Omega embodied the kinds of things I was interested in — athletics, academics, fun — and they had a great reputation on campus," he says. "It was a great group of guys, and I became very close to them."

The 1970s were turbulent times in America, particularly on college campuses. "We arrived on campus with short hair. We experimented and partied and grew our hair long, only to go back to the real world upon graduation," he recalls with a smile. "The fraternity served as an anchor: It exposed us to a broad array of life, taught us to rely on people from different walks of life and helped us keep things in perspective."

Later, he says, the fraternity served both as a support system and a network, introducing him to friends of friends, many connected through the fraternity.

Some of Steve's favorite memories of his fraternity days are of "the more intense hazing rituals," adding that recalling those times always brings a good laugh. "Those rituals brought all of us together. They set the bar higher, and gave us a different perspective on everything and the desire to meet difficult tasks. The world today doesn't set the bar high enough."

He notes that his pledge class held a 25th-anniversary reunion in 1996, which sparked a renewed interest in keeping in touch. "We've been reconnecting in the years since then."

Steve and his wife Sarah celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary this summer. They live in Chicago, Ill., with their three children, ages 15, 13 and 10. Steve says he now finds himself living vicariously through his kids, but his own life seems busy enough.

When asked about his goals for the future, Steve lists four: to remain healthy, continue to see his family grow and prosper, perpetuate The Staubach Company in the Midwest, and keep snow skiing and playing golf. This sounds like a man who's found balance and happiness. We wish him continued success.

Steve Stratton can be reached at *Steve*.
Stratton@Staubach.com or 312-245-4933. ■



Undergraduate Report

Grateful for Alumni Support

After a long summer, it was great to be back here in Champaign-Urbana to kick off another great year at Gamma Zeta. We already had a visit from the 1980 pledge class, who showed us how it's done, and had a great time at homecoming.

This fall's recruitment was excellent. After two hard weeks of making phone calls, holding open houses and meeting possible new members, we finished up with 33 new pledges. This is the leading number on campus and, as usual, they are the best of the best. We are extremely proud of our rush team who did a fantastic job recruiting such a great group for the pledge class of 2009.

This past summer, the ATO National Awards Banquet was held in Indianapolis, and Gamma Zeta cleaned up. Among the awards we took home were Excellence in Scholarship for having a GPA over 3.0, Outstanding Service to the Community, Excellence in Communication, Recruitment Advantage and, best of all, True Merit. This makes seven straight True Merit bowls for Gamma Zeta — a tradition we intend to carry on for many years to come.

The philanthropy team has a lot of exciting things planned for the semester. As usual, we will be holding our semiannual American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Union. This event brings out hundreds of donors and is deemed one of the most successful blood drives in the state. We will also be participating in many other service events throughout the semester including Theta Hoops, Gamma Phi Golf, Greeks-at-Bat and DG Anchor Splash.

In case you were becoming concerned, it is not all work and no play around the Gamma Zeta house. This semester we have had a lot of fun social events to look forward to as well. Although it may have been difficult to keep cheering the Illini football team this year, we still had football block with the women of Alpha Chi Omega before every home game. In addition to the bar crawls and impromptus, we are also having exchanges with the women of Delta Gamma, Delta Delta Delta and Gamma Phi Beta. We are also having happy hours with the women of Kappa Alpha Theta throughout the semester.

Looking back on the summer, it was great to meet many of you at events, share stories and listen to what the house means to you. The Cubs game on the rooftop was a blast. Thanks go to **Dane Luhrsen '74** for getting all those Taus together for a memorable afternoon. The Matt Heldman Memorial Golf Tournament was also a great success.

I cannot thank all of you enough for your continued support. Due to your contributions, we will be seeing new furniture in the main living rooms, dining room and computer room. With my term as worthy master coming to an end, I look forward to finishing on a strong note and choosing the best person possible to take my place as the leader of the strongest organization on campus.

If anyone would like to contact me with any questions, thoughts or concerns, please call 630-842-1257 or e-mail me at mabrown2@uiuc.edu.

VTL,
Matt Brown '03 ■

Illinois Basketball

It's time for the 2005 NCAA Championship runner-up Fighting Illini to once again take the court! That means that it is also time for you to plan a trip back to Illinois to take in a game with your Alpha Tau Omega brothers. And don't forget your camera! You can post pictures from the game in the photo gallery on our website www.atoillinois.com.

Can't make it back? Why not get together with other brothers in your area to watch the game. You can use the directory on our website www.atoillinois.com to find other local Alpha Tau Omega alums.

Day	Date	Opponent	Location
	Fri 10/28/05	Orange & Blue Scrimmage	Assembly Hall
	Thu 11/03/05	Illinois Wesleyan	(Exh.) Assembly Hall
	Wed 11/09/05	Quincy (Exh.)	Assembly Hall
	Fri 11/18/05	South Dakota State	Assembly Hall
	Sun 11/20/05	Texas-Pan	American Assembly Hall
	Tue 11/22/05	Texas Southern	Assembly Hall
	Fri 11/25/05	Wichita State	South Padre Island, Texas
	Sat 11/26/05	TBA	South Padre Island, Texas
	Tue 11/29/05	North Carolina	Chapel Hill, N.C.
	Sat 12/03/05	Xavier	United Center, Chicago
	Mon 12/05/05	Arkansas-Little Rock	Assembly Hall
	Thu 12/08/05	Georgetown	Assembly Hall
	Sat 12/10/05	Oregon	Portland, Ore.
	Sun 12/18/05	Coppin State	Assembly Hall
	Wed 12/21/05	Missouri	St. Louis, Mo.
	Wed 12/28/05	Southeast Missouri	State Assembly Hall
	Fri 12/30/05	Tennessee-Martin	Assembly Hall
	Thu 01/05/06	Michigan State	Assembly Hall
	Sat 01/07/06	Iowa	Iowa City, Iowa
	Sat 01/14/06	Michigan	Assembly Hall
	Tue 01/17/06	Indiana	Bloomington, Ind.
	Sat 01/21/06	Northwestern	Evanston, Ill.
	Wed 01/25/06	Minnesota	Assembly Hall
	Sat 01/28/06	Purdue	Assembly Hall
	Tue 01/31/06	Wisconsin	Madison, Wis.
	Sat 02/04/06	Penn State	Assembly Hall
	Sun 02/12/06	Ohio State	Columbus, Ohio
	Wed 02/15/06	Northwestern	Assembly Hall
	Sun 02/19/06	Indiana	Assembly Hall
	Tue 02/21/06	Michigan	Ann Arbor, Mich.
	Sat 02/25/06	Iowa	Assembly Hall
	Tue 02/28/06	Minnesota -OR-	Minneapolis, Minn.
	Wed 03/01/06	Minnesota -OR-	Minneapolis, Minn.
	Thu 03/02/06	Minnesota	Minneapolis, Minn.
	Sat 03/04/06	Michigan State East Lansing, Mich.	
	Thu 03/09/06	Big Ten Tournament Indianapolis, Ind.	
	Fri 03/10/06	Big Ten Tournament Indianapolis, Ind.	
	Sat 03/11/06	Big Ten Tournament Indianapolis, Ind.	
	Sun 03/12/06	Big Ten Tournament Indianapolis, Ind.	

*Dates and times subject to change.
Television coverage subject to change.
All times are Central. ■*

Alumni Updates

Ronald W. Henson '56

(2305 Ramshead Ct. S., Waukesha, WI 53188-1562; rhenson@wi.rr.com) It was quite a week for me in bicycling in June: 251.4 miles in one week, with 100 of that in the June 4th Trek 100 Ride for Childhood Cancer. The Trek is based in Waterloo, Wis. It was my first attempt at a "century" ride; my previous longest had been 65 miles. Some 1,978 riders from 19 states participated in Trek's 16th annual MACC Fund cancer event (www.MACCFund.org), with the ride starting and ending at the WCTC facility in Pewaukee, Wis. The next day I rode 50 miles in the annual Miller Ride

for Arts event. June 29, 2005, was my second anniversary of riding bikes. Before that was 30 years of no exercise — other than hand exercises on the remote control! Before I'm 70 I'd like to bike in France and Italy. (I've biked in Spain, near Girona, north of Barcelona, in March 2004.) I was 67 this July. I'm just very thankful to God for finding this marvelous sport/hobby for me. How could I have missed out on this for 30 years? Now I'm relishing every bicycle experience.

Robert F. Rugg '76

(7 Centaurus Way, Coto De Caza, CA 92679-5115; rfrugg@msn.com) After moving back to California

in 1998 after six Chicago winters, we're enjoying all the emotions and issues of having twin girls starting to drive, date, go to the beach, periodically study, etc., in Orange County. I really miss the ATO brothers and hope to reconnect and/or have some visit us out west. After 19 years with USG and four as president of James Hardie Gypsum, I'm still in building materials as the executive director of a group of specialty gypsum distributors called The Drake Group (www.GypsumToday.com).

Jack C. Arnold '77

(6472 S. Jamaica Cir., Englewood, CO 80111; jarnold@fuego.com) I've been living in Denver for the last eight years with my family: wife Linda, daughter Alex and son Kevin. I caught up with **Jim Gregory '80**, whose son plays basketball with mine, and **Tom Flaherty '80** in Boulder. Also, we spent last Christmas in NYC with **Dave Retzsch '75** and his family. I can be reached by e-mail or at 303-708-8506.

David D. Teuscher '78

(825 Thomas, Beaumont, TX 77706-4618; sportdoctor@gt.rr.com) Sorry we weren't there for homecoming. We were still digging out, without power, from Hurricane Rita.

Josh Young '96

(13958 Wheeler Rd., Carlinville, IL 62626; youngjosh@hotmail.com) I recently moved from Vail, Colo., to participate in my family's agricultural operation. There aren't quite so many skiing days in Illinois, but there's a lot more time for catching up with local friends.

Jay H. Anderson '97

(1008 N. Argus, Robinson, IL 62454; finish8ter@yahoo.com) Following my tour of duty in Champaign, I moved back to Robinson, Ill. Recently I opened my own graphic design business. I specialize in

In Memory

Since publication of our last newsletter, we have learned of the death of **George Modjeska '36** (12/12/04) and **Reed F. Riley '45**. Alpha Tau Omega mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends. ■

large-format digital printing. If anyone needs any help with advertising for their business, do not hesitate to contact me.

Jonathan T. Nassos '97

(1133 N. Dearborn St., Apt. 903, Chicago, IL 60610; jtn22@aol.com) I am in my third year of residency in orthopaedic surgery at Loyola University Medical Center. My schedule has lightened up through November, and I hope to relive some of the good old days in the city with you boys.

Jeffrey Stephen Piper '97

(906 W. Lakeside Pl., Apt. #3E, Chicago, IL 60640; jsp@svoco.com) I married Christina Leigh Oaks on August 20, 2005, in Geneva, Ill. Christina is a sales representative for Amgen Inc., a leading biotech and pharmaceutical company. We had a great honeymoon to Italy for two weeks and are excited to be starting our life together. I hope to see some of you in Champaign soon and introduce you to my better half.

Jonathan F. Berns '98

(600 River Birch Ct., #326, Clermont, FL 34711; berns@soltec.net) I am in private practice in Clermont, Fla., just west of Orlando. I graduated in February 2005 and received my Florida license in June 2005. I plan to open my own clinic next fall. I hope everyone is doing well. Drop me a line. If anyone is living in central Florida or planning on visiting the Orlando area, get hold of me! ■

Forsythe Technology Appoints Brennan As President

On October 11, 2005, **William P. Brennan '75** was named president of Forsythe Technology, a technology infrastructure solutions provider, and of its subsidiary, Forsythe Solutions Group. He was also elected to the board of directors for each company. Brennan assumes the post previously held by chairman Richard A. Forsythe, who founded the company in 1971.

Forsythe is an industry-leading provider of IT consulting, leasing and value-added reseller services.

"Over the past 35 years, our company has established a reputation for taking great care of our customers while achieving steady growth and an unbroken record of profitability," says Richard Forsythe. "I am confident that Bill's talent and experience will enable him to take our already successful business to a higher level."

Brennan brings more than 25 years of experience in the IT industry, business strategy and management to his new position. Previously he served as Forsythe Solutions Group's senior vice president of sales. Prior to that, he was vice president of sales and product operations, responsible for client targeting, marketing integration and sales programs; sales-team development and planning; sales methodology; and order-fulfillment processes.

Before joining Forsythe in 2003, Brennan was an independent consultant, leading strategic business transformation engagements. He also spent 14 years in sales, marketing and management with IBM Corporation.

"The credit for building this company over the years goes to its capable employees and leaders," says Brennan. "We are extremely fortunate to have so many dedicated, knowledgeable people within our organization and, by working together, I believe we can continue to strengthen and grow our business. I am honored and excited by this opportunity. ■