

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Dates to Remember

**December 16, 2006-  
January 16, 2007**

House closed for semester break.

**March 8-11, 2007**

Big Ten Men's Basketball Tournament, at the United Center

*Alumni, watch the game in Chicago: TBA*

**March 17-25, 2007**

House closed for spring break.

**April 13-15, 2007**

Mom's Weekend

Vice President **Jimmy Skuros** is planning this year's events.

Family and alumni are welcome to attend the festivities, including our traditional brunch and charitable auction at the Chapter house. Last year, the Mom's Day Auction rose over \$8,000, benefiting the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

**May 11, 2007**

Spring semester ends.

# Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity

University of Illinois

[www.atoillinois.com](http://www.atoillinois.com)

December 2006

## Twenty-Nine Man Pledge Class Yields Largest Recruitment Effort on Campus

*House Occupancy of 84 Residents is Highest We've Seen in Years*

By **Kyle Gillen '08**, [kgillen2@uiuc.edu](mailto:kgillen2@uiuc.edu)

As the fall 2006 semester quickly draws to a close, ATO is proud to look back on another strong semester.

The school year kicked off with a successful rush effort that yielded 29 high-quality pledges. A dedicated Rush Team, headed by **Jeff Vranek '08**, strove to maintain our positive campus reputation; the prestige of Gamma Zeta contributed to a highly successful recruitment campaign.

The house continues to be one of the most physically impressive structures on campus. Brothers and pledges continue to recognize the privilege of living-in and being associated with this house, as evidenced by the record number of 84 residents this semester. In regards to the common rooms, the newly added furniture and the new carpet and wood floors in the hallways have been greatly appreciated and are treated as such. Additionally, room improvements throughout the house continue to enhance the living conditions for members.

Despite a disappointing football loss at the hands of Indiana, this year's Homecoming

celebration proved successful. It was great to see so many alumni and families attend. Special thanks go to the pledge class of '57, who were back in strong numbers to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. Before the game, all alumni, actives and pledges enjoyed a brunch at the house, which included a dedication ceremony of one of the private bedrooms, appropriately entitled the "Library." Dean Thomas Arkle Clark's nephew, **Thomas A. Clark '37**, donated substantial time and money to renovate the room in loving memory of his Aunt and TAC's wife, Alice V.B. Clark. Representatives from Nationals attended the ceremony.

Gamma Zeta continues to play an active role in the community through its philanthropic efforts. Our chapter just finished a semiannual blood drive, where we surpassed the goal set for us by the Red Cross for the eighth straight semester. While this effort has historically been a great success, and one that will continue in the future, Gamma Zeta is looking to develop new philanthropic events, including Frat Football and Miss Illini.

## Thank You for Contributing to the 2005-06 Annual Fund Drive

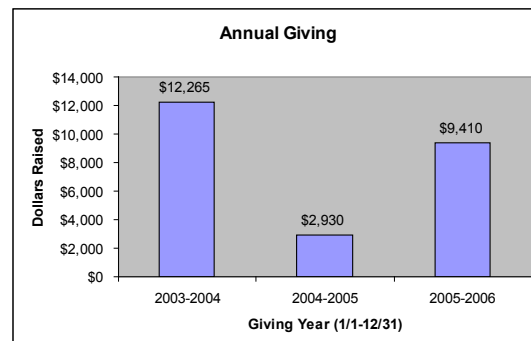
*Help Us Make 2006-2007 Even Better!*

## We Need Your Contact Information!

Make sure you're receiving ALL issues of our newsletter (both print and electronic) by updating your contact information online at [www.atoillinois.com](http://www.atoillinois.com)!

The Thomas Arkle Clark Memorial Chapter House Inc. would like to thank the 111 alumni members who contributed a collective \$9,410 to our 2005-06 annual fund.

While this was a great response, we'd like to increase our giving total! Help us exceed what we've raised in the past by making your gift today to kick off the 2006-07 annual fund. Just visit [www.atoillinois.com](http://www.atoillinois.com) or call **800-975-6699** to make your donation.



# ALUMNI PRESIDENT REPORT

## A True Merit Year for Gamma Zeta!

### Increase in Undergraduate Membership, a Special Homecoming Dedication, and Impending Capital Campaign Headline ATO's Achievements

By: **Jeff Piper '97**, House Corporation Board of Trustees Chairman  
(jpiper@illinoisalumni.org; jsp@svoco.com; W: 312-267-8757; C: 773-910-4799)

*As the fall semester draws to a close and the holidays quickly approach, we reflect on Gamma Zeta's progress. Since our last newsletter, there have been a number of positive developments at the House and there are multiple reminders to pass along. Below are some of the highlights:*

- **Taking the Hardware** – The Alpha Tau Omega National Fraternity hosted its 77<sup>th</sup> ATO Congress this past summer in Austin, Texas. Gamma Zeta was the recipient of a number of awards, including its 19<sup>th</sup> True Merit Award, Excellence in Financial Management, and Excellence in Campus Involvement/Leadership Development. Congratulations to the undergraduates, former President, **Mike Keeley**, and his House Committee team members!
- **Undergraduate Update** – House Corporation welcomed the new House Committee members into office on Homecoming weekend. Led by **President Kyle Gillen**, **Vice President Jimmy Skuros** and **Treasurer Aaron Zaluzec**, the house continues to build positive momentum and maintain strong participation levels among all actives. This is clearly evidenced by the increase in live-in members and the growth in the pledge class size. There are now over 80 members living in the house, up from 60 in the previous semester. Maintaining this 100% capacity level will be essential

to securing our financial flexibility in the coming years. Furthermore, Gamma Zeta successfully closed the fall pledge class with 29 new pledges, ranking in the top five on campus.

House goals for this academic year, as determined by the new House Committee, include (i) a top 10 academic ranking among fraternities, (ii) a 95% or better financial collections rate, (iii) a minimum of 75 live-in members at all times, and (iv) the University's only marquee campus-wide philanthropy event to be launched. On a personal note, we'd like to thank former President Mike Keeley and his management team for their service over the past year.

- **Scholarship Winners Announced** – Gamma Zeta is pleased to congratulate the undergraduate members that have been awarded the following scholarships based on their academic, extracurricular and philanthropic achievements:

- *Robert J. Simonds Scholarship:*  
**Zach Carusona**

- *Matt Heldman Memorial Scholarship:*  
**Jamie Daul** and **Patrick Erfort**
- *Frederick C. Philbrick Memorial Scholarship:* **Jim Lyznicki**, **Jeff Gasbarra** and **John O'Neill**

- **Homecoming 2006** – Our annual homecoming festivities at Gamma Zeta enjoyed a large number of returning alumni and family, including a traditional pre-game brunch and post-game cocktail party with live music entertainment. Those in attendance included the graduating classes of 1957-1963, celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> year since their initiation in 1957.

Other activities included a special alumni bedroom renovation dedication of the "Library," made possible through the donation efforts of **Thomas A. Clark '37**, the nephew of Thomas Arkle Clark. Please view the video of the Homecoming dedication online: [www.atoillinois.com](http://www.atoillinois.com). We are eternally grateful for Mr. Clark's generosity. Please join us for next year's Homecoming celebration.

### Alumni Notes

- **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Matt Heldman Memorial Golf Outing** – This year's annual golf outing was held on August 4, 2006, at Prairie Landing Golf Club in West Chicago, where the foursome of **Ryan McNaughton '02**, **Tyson Brill '02**, **Jeff Siok '02** and **Shawn Mayernick '02** claimed victory. The 80 participants rose close to \$7,500 for the Heldman Scholarship.
- **Dave Krug '92** – Congratulations to Dave Krug for being named to ATO's National Board of Directors this past summer!
- **Remember Your Roots** – We are constantly seeking to improve our alumni network and encourage you to visit our website: [www.atoillinois.com](http://www.atoillinois.com). This great tool, which is administered by Affinity Connection and managed internally by our communications chair, **Jeff Williams '02** (jlbwmail@yahoo.com), is key to improving

our communication efforts and is essential in keeping you abreast of news and events. Through the website, you are able to submit updated alumni records and make donations. Please see the contact information cited in this newsletter.

- **Volunteering** – If you are interested in helping House Corporation, please contact me.
- **Dedicated Room Renovations** – Remember the good times in Room #11? Or perhaps Room #4? Would you like to memorialize your legacy forever? Since the alumni dedicated room renovations program began, we have successfully remade two rooms in the House. Many more could use a facelift. In exchange for your generosity, we will gladly dedicate the room, as you so desire, by mounting a plaque in your honor. If you are interested in making a contribution, please contact me.
- **Upcoming Capital Campaign** – As

the Thomas Arkle Clark Chapter Memorial House ages, so does our checkbook. House Corporation is in the development stages of launching a multi-year, multi-million dollar campaign to restore the infrastructure of the House and implement multiple technological and safety upgrades, including the mandated installation of a fire sprinkler system and a renovated dining room. More details will be forthcoming.

On behalf of the House Corporation Board, we sincerely appreciate your commitment and continued involvement. If you have any questions regarding the Chapter, contributions or contacting fellow brothers, please do not hesitate to contact me or other House Corporation Board members. House Corporation will continue to work closely with the undergraduate members and alumni to ensure a positive experience is associated with Gamma Zeta for years to come.

*"...to have no narrower limits within which to work together for the elevation of man than the outlines of the world."*

Otis Allan Glazebrook, 1880

# The Ties That Bind: Bill Barry '77 Is Thankful for the Relationships He Formed in ATO

## How One Brother Helped Lead Bill to a Life-Long Career He Loves

**Bill Barry '77** grew up in the small town of Taylorsville, IL. He got his first introduction to ATO when **Bill Ganey '75**, who was two years ahead of him in school, invited him and a friend (Tom) to stay at the ATO house for a weekend. They went to an Illinois basketball game and got to know several brothers, including **Gerry Kostelny '75** and **Bob Mathias '74**.

Bill took us to a bar, "Second Chance." It was my first time at a fraternity. We stayed up late night at the house, and the next day I signed up.

Bill was only a high school senior at the time, but in those days it was permissible to pledge even if you weren't a college freshman. "Joking around, the guys said Tom was the one they wanted, but I pledged and he didn't, so they were stuck with me," Bill chuckled.

Bill was an accounting major at Illinois. He and two other brothers, **Dave Seiler '77** and **Rich Clausing '77**, leaned on each other for support. "We spent the bulk of our four years studying together," stated Bill. But despite the heavy workload, they made sure there was plenty of time to join in the fraternity's festivities.

"My favorite memories are the intramural sports," Bill recalled. "I was our intramural chairman for a couple of years. We won three consecutive intramural basketball championships."

His favorite memory was winning Dooley's touch football championship.

Bill, known to his brothers as "BB," immersed himself in the camaraderie he found at the house.

"I lived at the house all four years I was there, which was kind of unusual. But I loved staying there. My meals were cooked for me and I studied quite a bit."

There was one room at the house that stood out above the rest because it was built by Mark Greenleaf. Rooms at the house were allotted to the brothers first by class, then by GPA. Bill had a high GPA, so he was always one of the first to get his pick of rooms. **Bill Brennan '78** half-jokingly suggested they room together, and the two ended-up claiming the desirable room.

"It may have been the best grades he [Bill Brennan] ever got, and the most fun I ever had with a roommate," Bill recalled. "We were complete opposites."

After graduation, Bill worked at Pricewaterhouse as a senior auditor with fellow ATO **Mike Faber**. But it was another ATO that brought about his transition to commercial real estate. Bill heard that **Gerry Kostelny '75**, who was the head of the Lincoln Property Company, was looking for a Chicago office controller. Bill jumped at the chance and began a new career. "I'm amazed how many ATOs are involved in the real estate business," Bill observed.

Bill was hired at Draper and Kramer, another real estate company, in 1989. He has been there ever since and is now the senior vice president and heads the commercial mortgage financial group.

Over the years, Bill has maintained strong ties with the fraternity. He has been the chairman of the March of Dimes Sports Awards dinner for the last 19 years, an event that draws about 25 to 30 ATOs every year. He attends the ATO golf outing that is run by some of the actives, which raises money for the Matt Heldman Scholarship Fund, and he meets ATOs for cocktails at a bar in downtown Chicago over Christmas. His class has a reunion every five years, the next one will be in 2007.

"Really, one guy, **Dane Luhrsen '77**, keeps us informed of all the ATO alumni events," Bill commented. "His many emails make sure we all show up. Without Dane, we would not get together as much."

Bill has one son, Jeff, who is a senior at the University of Virginia and is an accounting major. "He'll probably work at one of the Big Four firms," he stated proudly.

Bill has been more than happy with his career. He will continue working in real estate for a few more years before thinking about retiring. Bill is grateful for where his profession has taken him, and it was Gerry Kostelny that made it all possible. "I owe Gerry Kostelny a big thank you for where I am today."

## Laugh So Hard Your Guts Hurt

Describe the Best ATO Party

"Perhaps the most memorable was the one our pledge class had with our Spring Carnival partner, [the] Kappas, - in a cemetery!"  
- John M. Donohue '59

"No contest. Our annual 'Outhouse' party out in the country at a park."  
- Roger F. Haines '73

"Mom's weekend with Alpha Chi Omega, when we figured out how to safely catch folks jumping off the roof."  
- David Teuscher MD '80

Read more hilarious stories and submit your own at [www.atoillinois.com](http://www.atoillinois.com)!

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### '50s

**Ronald W. Henson '57**

(2305 Ramshead Court S., Waukesha, WI 53188; [RHENSON@wi.rr.com](mailto:RHENSON@wi.rr.com))

I planned our 50th reunion for this October 6-7. Although it is for the Class of 1960 (initiated 1957), other classes were contacted and were most welcome.

### '70s

**Scott Rice '79**

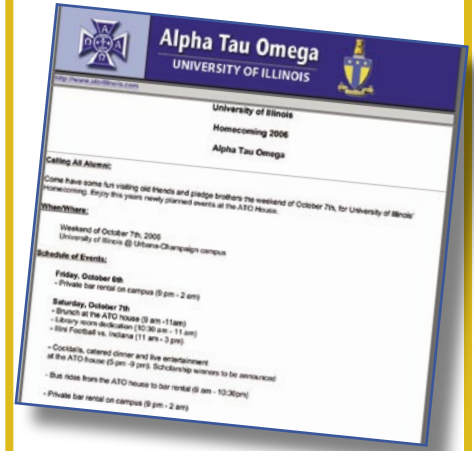
(705 W. Main Street, Carmi, IL 62821; [illini@shawneelink.net](mailto:illini@shawneelink.net)) I am still the owner/operator of Rice Motor Company in beautiful downtown Carmi, IL. I have a son that is a sophomore at the University of Illinois. I attend every home football and basketball game. Let me know if you are going to be at the game. Stop by our tailgate!

## Memorabilia Needed from Your Days at Illinois Help Us Remember Our Past



The Gamma Zeta Chapter is looking to rebuild its legacy by collecting old photographs and other items you may have saved from your years at Illinois. Specifically, we are looking for photographs to represent each decade of our history! Group shots of parties, mixers, dances, etc. are wanted. Please submit photos from your era online at [www.atoillinois.com](http://www.atoillinois.com).

Caption: Winners of the PJ Relay; L-R, **Larry Buchtel, Dick Walbaum '60, Jim Flint and Ron Henson '60**



## Are you receiving our monthly eLetter?

Make sure that you are receiving the monthly alumni e-letter update. If you aren't getting this e-mail update, please log onto our website at [www.atoillinois.com](http://www.atoillinois.com). You'll receive the latest Gamma Zeta news — including chapter updates, notification of the latest additions to the Web site and details of upcoming events — right in your inbox!

*We Keep Getting Stronger!  
More Brothers Living In the House,  
Large Pledge Classes, and the  
Awards Keep Coming In!*

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