

2002-2003 House Corporation Officers

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Left: Matt Heldman Trophy engraved with GZ Golf Tournament Winners. Below: Gamma Zeta True Merit Trophies on Display.



Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity
University of Illinois
January 2003

Letter from the President

By Patrick Jensen, '98, House Corporation President

Things have been busy at Gamma Zeta. In the past 18 months, the House Corporation team has coordinated several significant improvements to the chapter house, including a major facelift to the front of the house, a state-of-the-art kitchen, upgrades to the computer room, and new furniture for each living room. In the coming year, we have identified several new projects that will enhance the functionality and attractiveness of the house. Some of these projects include a restoration to the dining room area, electrical work, landscaping, and an upgrade to the TV room. Our goal as House Corporation is to provide the undergraduate members with the best housing at the University of Illinois.

These improvements are not possible without your help. As a result of your generous contributions, we have been fortunate to not only make significant chapter house improvements, but also to provide over \$12,000 in scholarships to undergraduate members on an annual basis. With your continued contributions and support, Gamma Zeta will continue to excel above other ATO Chapters and at the University of Illinois.

On behalf of the House Corporation team, I welcome all of you to visit the chapter this year and see the recent developments. If you have any questions regarding the chapter, contributions or contacting fellow brothers, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the House Corporation. ■

Profile: Patrick J. Jensen '98

Four Years of ATO Not Enough for Patrick J. Jensen '98

"Alpha Tau Omega was a major piece of my life for four years," says Patrick J. Jensen '98. "It didn't make sense to abandon that once college was over." Patrick still stays active with ATO as House Corporation President. "A lot of alumni donated time and energy before me, building the chapter to what it is today. I had a great experience in the house and want to make sure that continues for others."

"Most brothers look back at their ATO experience as a great time, filled with memorable moments and outstanding friendships. As a member of House Corp., I want to keep the alumni informed on the chapter activities, the continued success of the chapter and to help make connections among alumni and undergraduates. We have a great team of people on the House Corporation who volunteer their time to continue the tradition."

Patrick's love of fraternity started as a respect for Greek life in general.

"Family and friends told me how much the Greek system offered. I chose ATO because of the principles of the fraternity, the reputation of the chapter

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Patrick Jensen (center) with old roommate Matt Zieba (left) and pledge brother Tyler Simpson (right).

From the Worthy Master

By Jeff Scolaro

I would first like to thank all alumni for their continued support, in every aspect, of Gamma Zeta. It is with your aid that we are able to maintain the house, as well as the excellence produced within it.

We are pleased to report a successful fall semester of 2002. We've completed the restoration to the front of the house and the exterior structure is now in fine condition. We have several plans for the internal improvement of our house over the holiday break, including the tiling of the main bathroom and some much-needed electrical improvements throughout the house.

This past semester we had another packed social calendar. We welcomed the opportunity to meet many Alumni as they returned to attend Fighting Illini football games on Saturdays or Chicago Bears games on Sundays. Next semester, we encourage all of you to visit the house on your way to see this year's strong Illinois basketball team.

Our philanthropy team raised over \$4,000 for charity this semester in addition to producing the most successful blood drive on campus. We continue to improve upon our community involvement and our dedication to helping the less fortunate.

We had a strong showing in intramurals, as well as in Theta Hoops, Delta Gamma Anchor Splash, and the Gamma Phi golf tournament. We look to come out on top in next semester's intramurals, which will include basketball and softball.

We recruited 29 New Members ('06 Pledge Class) that will be returning to I-Week after the break, and we are making plans to have another strong pledge class in the spring.

ATO National Headquarters recently came to Illinois in order to use our house and its members as models for the new National Recruitment Brochure. This demonstrates our growing bond and our ability to work together with National Headquarters and Wynn Smiley, National Executive Director.

Gamma Zeta will carry forward in the positive direction that the house is currently moving. We are striving to reach our goal of top ATO chapter in the country. We make this commitment with your legacy and expectations in mind. Next semester is my first full one as President of Gamma Zeta. If any alumni wish to contact me with comments, questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to do so. Thank you for your time and dedication. ■



Profile: **Patrick J. Jensen '98**

Four Years Not Enough for Patrick J. Jensen '98

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and the quality of the brothers." Patrick has fond memories of his collegiate days. He played baseball for two years, was on the Student Alumni Association and involved with several philanthropic organizations, but his favorite memories are those of ATO where he held several offices. There were intramural sports, road trips, football games, philanthropies, formals and the simple everyday experiences of fraternity life. He lived in the house for three years – two years with pledge brother Greg Foster; senior year with Matt Zieba.

Patrick continues to maintain close friendships with Greg and Matt as well as many other ATOs who live in the Chicago area. "Between social gatherings, weddings and golf, we see each other regularly. However, as he meets more alumni, he thinks additional alumni events would be great. "I'd like to see all the alumni get together more frequently – it's always nice to meet new brothers – younger and older."

Patrick is married to Kathleen (Garibaldi), a U of I Tri Delta. He works for Duff & Phelps, LLC, an investment bank. In his spare time he enjoys coaching for a

youth baseball program, playing softball and flag football, hunting, and fishing.

Brothers may contact Patrick at either pjensen@DUFFLLC.com or 312-697-4665.

This brief Q&A interview is part of an ongoing series designed to help us get to know our brothers better. If you know a brother you think would make a good profile subject, please send his name and graduation year, along with your name and grad year to our alumni relations service: news@2stayconnected.com. Make sure to mention that it's for Alpha Tau Omega, Illinois. ■

NEWS Brief

Intramural Update

The Chapter is putting a lot of resources into improving our already outstanding Intramural Program. Our Frat Blue Flag Football Team lost in the Semifinals of the All-Campus Championship. Most Chapters would consider this a good year, but our expectations are much higher.

We are already looking forward to next year when we'll have a number of key players returning, as well as an undefeated "B" Team returning with all of their players. The spring semester also looks promising. We have key members returning to last year's IM Champion basketball and softball teams. We look to defend those titles, as well as anything else they can throw at us in the spring. ■

Fraternity EVENTS

Busy Social Calendar

The past semester's social calendar was a busy one. We were fortunate to have a large Homecoming turnout, which included many members of the '77, '82, '82.5, '92, and '92.5 pledge classes. We would like to thank all those that came and supported the Chapter.

In addition to Homecoming, our social calendar consisted of Dad's Weekend, Football block with AXW, exchanges with DDD, KKG, KD, Semi-Formal, and Outhouse.

We are looking forward to three more exchanges in the spring with the ladies of Gamma Phi Beta, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Delta Gamma. In addition, we have our annual events planned, such as Mom's Weekend, Formal, and Spring Bash. ■

Upcoming Dates

TO Remember

Dedication of Cumulative Gifts Plaque and Illini vs. Minnesota

The House Corporation would like to invite back all Alumni on March 8th to help us dedicate the new Cumulative Gifts Plaque, which will be permanently hung in the Library at the house. We are expecting the largest Alumni turnout since our Centennial Celebration in 1995.

We will formally recognize everyone who has contributed more than \$1,101 directly to Gamma Zeta in six different giving levels: \$1,101; \$5,000; \$10,000; \$25,000; \$50,000; and \$75,000.

The day will kick-off with a catered cocktail party at 5:00 p.m. in the East and West Living Rooms at the house, followed by the Plaque Dedication Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Alumni are encouraged to make their own dinner plans and then join the Undergraduates at one of the local taverns to celebrate the gathering.

For Sunday, the House has purchased 50 tickets to the Illinois vs. Minnesota Men's Basketball game and they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The house will provide transportation to and from the Assembly Hall for the game.

We will communicate more specific details via email closer to the event. CBS has not announced the exact time of tip-off as of this mailing. Plan on tailgating at the House or KAMS prior to tip-off on Sunday. The event is free but we will accept donations at the event to help defer the cost of the tickets and food. Please RSVP to the event with the postcard included or via Evite at: <http://www.evite.com/pages/invite/viewinvite.jsp?event=ufusaavtpyqpaippikxk>

4th Annual Alumni Golf Outing

Please keep Friday, August 1st open to join us for the 4th Annual Gamma Zeta Alumni Golf Outing to benefit the Matt Heldman Memorial Scholarship.

Last year's event was held at Glenwoodie Golf Club in Glenwood, IL. The annual scramble event was won last year by Doug Ausnehmer, B.W. Bruce, Pat Brankin, and Andy Small. A trophy was recently custom-made to recognize winners of the event and has a permanent place in the foyer of the chapter house right by the main staircase. The names of the previous winners are also included on the trophy, including Dan Tarpey, Brian Eichenberger, Keith Beaudoin, and Jay Nuttall (2000 winners) and Matt Menna, Q Bailey, Chad Wanless, and Sean McGrath (2001 winners). The trophy will only be removed from the house to be awarded to the new champions each year at the event.



Taus for Tunney Fundraising Event

Tom Tunney '77 was recently appointed Alderman of the 44th Ward in Chicago by Mayor Daley. Due to the timing of the election cycle, Tom will have to run on February 25th in order to hold onto his seat.

A Fundraiser will be held on Tuesday, February 18, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Schoolyard Tavern at 3258 N. Southport in Chicago to help raise money for Tom's election and to watch the Illinois vs. Michigan State Big Ten Basketball Game.

The event is being coordinated by Craig Nadbourne (773) 454-0159, Bill Barry (312) 497-3422, and Dane Luhrsen (630) 638-8572. Food and drink are being provided by Matt Menna '89, the owner of the Schoolyard Tavern.

The cost of the event is a \$100 donation at the door. Please RSVP via email to Craig Nadbourne cnads@myexcel.com. If you can't make it but would still like to contribute, please send a check made payable to "Citizens for Tunney" and mail it to Craig Nadbourne, 5936 N. Paulina Street, Unit One, Chicago, IL 60660-3272.

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Who's Lost?

Help us locate lost members. Next time you talk to friends from the House, ask them if they received this newsletter. If they didn't, it is probably because we don't have their current address. Please ask them to send us their new address or update it online at <http://www.ato.org/ato/interact/changeaddress.shtml> ■

More Upcoming Dates

TO Remember

'93 Pledge Class 10-year Reunion Set for Homecoming 2003

Matt Menna will be hosting a 10-year reunion on October 25th at Homecoming (Illini vs. Minnesota) in Champaign for all Alumni who were in the '93 pledge class. Matt hopes to raise \$10,000 from the members of his class for the house. For information on the 10-year reunion please contact Matt Menna at (312) 364-8629.

Dane Luhrsen successfully organized a 25-year reunion for the '77s last fall. Almost everyone was able to make it back for part or all of the weekend, which included dinner Friday night at Champaign Country Club and the football game on Saturday. With these successful examples in mind, the House Corporation would like to challenge the '78 pledge class to organize a 25-year reunion and to raise \$25,000.

For information or help in organizing a reunion, please contact Dave Krug at (773) 750-3706. ■



Class of '77 reunites on Homecoming 2002

Philanthropy Update

We are coming off one of our most successful philanthropic fall semesters in recent memory. Once again, we had the most successful blood drive on campus. In addition, we were able to donate more than \$1,000 in gifts to the Toys-for-Tots program and raised over \$3,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Individually, Gamma Zeta members continue to donate their time to the Big Brother program, as well as Champaign-area tutoring programs. We have another productive semester planned in the spring. Our annual Mom's weekend auction highlights our upcoming social service schedule. This annual auction will benefit the Y-Me National Breast Cancer Organization. ■

The Power of the Bond

Greek Alumni Change the World

Did you know ...

- Since 1900, two-thirds of U.S. Presidential Cabinet members have been Greek.
- Since 1910, 85 percent of justices named to the U.S. Supreme Court have been Greek.
- 65 percent of U.S. physicians and 78 percent of U.S. lawyers are Greek.
- Each year, Greeks do more than 850,000 hours of community service.
- Greeks lead 40 of the 50 largest U.S. corporations.
- Thirty-three U.S. Presidents were Greek.
- Two-thirds of the nation's most influential business and political leaders are Greek (Source: *Fortune Magazine*).
- 71 percent of fraternity men and 80 percent of sorority women graduate. For non-fraternity members, only 50 percent of men and 60 percent of women do.
- 52 percent of the U.S. Senate and 33 percent of the House are members of Greek organizations.
- The first female senator and the first woman astronaut were both sorority members.

Stay Connected and Make a Difference...
Support Our Nation's Next Leaders ■

Bears Season Eventful for Gamma Zeta

This year presented our chapter with a once in a lifetime opportunity. The Chicago Bears played their home games right here on campus, less than three blocks away from the Gamma Zeta Chapter House. The social team set up a number of brotherhood events for the games, highlighted by the Monday Night Football game against the Green Bay Packers. Despite the Bears' disappointing season, it was still a great experience that our current members will not soon forget. The Bears games also provided us with the opportunity to meet many Alumni that stopped to visit on their way to Memorial Stadium. ■

Renovation Update

The Chapter House received another facelift this fall. The House Corporation sponsored a major renovation project of the front roof and façade.

- All of the woodwork on the front of the house was rebuilt to match the original work by the Amish.
- The slate roof was temporarily removed to line the roof with new copper sheeting (first time this was done since the house was built).
- The woodwork was completed in late fall and looks spectacular.

The project cost approximately \$100,000. In addition, the living room and library received new furniture, the electrical system was updated, and tile in the main head replaced. The House Corporation also presented the undergraduates with a new TV room, including a big screen with surround and DVD player, as a Christmas gift after receiving news that the house GPA continues to place in the top ten among fraternities on campus.

If you are interested in donating directly to the house to help sponsor projects such as these, please contact Dave Krug at (773) 750-3706. ■