

## ON THE WEB

### *How to Register at www.atoillinois.com*

Don't yet have a username and password for our web site? Register today to have full access to the site.

- Go to [www.atoillinois.com](http://www.atoillinois.com).
- Click on the "First-Time Login" link on the home page.
- Enter your last name.
- Select your name.
- When prompted, enter your Member ID (found above your name and address on the mailing panel of this newsletter).

## IN MEMORY

We have recently learned of the deaths of the following brothers:

**James Unland '40**  
**John Knodell '42**  
**Richard Meinke '46**  
**Thomas Krigbaum '49**  
**James Norman '51**  
**John McLaughlin '52**  
**Robert Twohey '52**  
**William Blake '53**  
**John Heath '53**  
**Ronald Yochem '53**  
**Robert Allison '54**  
**Charles Delano '58**  
**Joseph Onn '62**  
**Robert Rea '62**  
**Jerry Kurasek '69**  
**John Markwell '71**  
**David Timson '72**  
**Rich Clausing '73**



# Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity  
University of Illinois  
[www.atoillinois.com](http://www.atoillinois.com)  
July 2010

## CHAPTER REPORT

### Gamma Zeta Continues to Shine on Campus and In Community

By Devin Fraley, Worthy Master  
[DRFraley1@gmail.com](mailto:DRFraley1@gmail.com)

Over the past academic year, the chapter experienced successes throughout rush, philanthropic events, our social calendar, and various individual achievements. Our rush team, led by sophomores **Jordan Sandberg** and **Greg Lucchesi**, brought in a total of 39 new initiates to Gamma Zeta this year- a number we hope to at least match in the upcoming year. The chapter also coordinated with the Red Cross to hold our annual on campus fall blood drive. Our Moms' Weekend auction featured many sports ticket and entertainment packages and exceeded last year's total by nearly \$1,600, as we raised \$9,400 for the Children's Memorial Foundation of Chicago. Finally, this was the inaugural year for Cooking for a Cure, a new philanthropy event we co-hosted with Delta Delta Delta. As usual, our social calendar included events with all of the top sororities. Our calendar included impromptu date events, Semi-Formal, Pledge Dance, the return of our fall party Outhouse, and a spring house-party.

Besides the chapter's events and achievements, there were also many individual or smaller group accomplishments and events throughout the year. Sophomore **Kevin Joy** came in first place in the Golder Center Venture Capital Case Competition. Junior **Matt Gitelis** won the University's trading competition as well as taking 3<sup>rd</sup> in nationals for an energy trading competition. Also a Relay for Life team, consisting of **Paul Weisheit**, **Zachary Matseche**, **Steve Ogden** and **Dan Passarella** raised \$855. The seniors shined in intramurals, winning flag football in the fall and broomball in the spring. Also in the spring, the sophomore team won Delta Delta Delta's Greeks-at-Bat softball tournament. Senior **Brett Paul** and juniors **Joseph Morrison** and **Richard Regalado** all completed the University of Illinois marathon. The house also saw 12

members study abroad for the spring semester. This group, made up of primarily juniors, was visited by the remaining junior pledge class over spring break. Also during spring break, a group of 33 seniors and sophomores traveled to Panama City Beach together.

*"...it would be greatly appreciated by our rush team if you send information on any potential ATO rushes to Greg Lucchesi at [Greglucchesi13@gmail.com](mailto:Greglucchesi13@gmail.com)."*

Our new executive team has already started to plan and organize various events for this upcoming year. We're planning on kicking off our social calendar with Outhouse the first week social events are allowed. We've also started to work on implementing a signature philanthropy event, ATO Recess, which will have sorority teams competing in dodgeball, kickball, basketball and flag football. We are starting our rush process this month with a boat trip on Lake Michigan with the potential for other possible summer events. With that, it would be greatly appreciated by our rush team if you send information on any potential ATO rushes to **Greg Lucchesi** at [Greglucchesi13@gmail.com](mailto:Greglucchesi13@gmail.com).

I hope that I will eventually have the opportunity to meet or talk with many of you; please feel free to contact me at any point. Hope you all are enjoying your summer and we all look forward to seeing you at the house for Homecoming.

VTL,  
Devin Fraley

## Chapter Exceeds 90% Occupancy, Works with Alumni Leaders to Conduct Membership Evaluation

### **Update from the Gamma Zeta House Corporation Board of Trustees:**

Our newsletter's intent is to both inform our membership of new developments but also enable undergraduates and alumni to reflect on the progress we have made and acknowledge other members' outstanding accomplishments. Since our last newsletter, there have been a number of positive and negative events at the House, while there are also multiple notices and reminders to pass along to fellow alumni. Below are some of the highlights:

***"Each undergraduate member was required to interview one-on-one with a representative of House Corporation to discuss expectations of membership, goals/aspirations, and leadership development. House Corporation was very impressed with the experiences and breadth of qualities and composition of the Chapter's membership."***

### **Gamma Zeta Notes**

**Undergraduate Update** – At the time of our last newsletter, the Chapter's new leadership had recently been elected. President **Matt Dixon**, Treasurer **Dan Morgan**, Vice President **Devin Fraley**, and Head House Manager **Robbie Bak**, assumed their officer positions at the start of the 2009 fall semester with an eye towards working diligently to advance the fundamental living conditions at the house and to improve the fraternal bonds and level of respect among undergraduate members. This team exerted a tremendous amount of energy, time and integrity in executing their roles. This group has served the Fraternity well and we wish them the best as they transition out of their officer roles later this fall. The new leadership team has been using the summer months to devise a strategy for the coming school year regarding effective transitioning of roles and responsibilities and goal setting for the house at-large.

Financially, the Chapter could be in better condition as we were not immune

from the recession. Collections this past year were challenging and expense rationalization was not significant enough. Furthermore, maintenance and repair costs in the 2009 fall semester were excessive, due primarily to increased house destruction activity from a few "bad apples". House Corporation and the undergraduates are working to rectify these financial issues by rolling out a new robust budgetary model while promoting financial transparency and responsibility with the undergraduates. The good news is that for the eighth consecutive semester, the chapter house has exceeded 90% of its capacity regarding the number of members living in-house. Maintaining these capacities will be essential to securing our financial flexibility in the coming years.

As mentioned above, House Corporation and the new undergraduate leadership team are taking necessary steps to cull recent destructive behavior and to improve its members' attitudes and perspectives. The first intervention by House Corporation took place on February 6, 2010. To say the least, House Corporation was overly dismayed at the appearance of the House and even more concerned about the negative attitude and downward trajectory. Following the February meeting, the undergraduates recognized the need for change in order to avoid the way of Betas, who lost their charter earlier in the school year. The undergraduates instituted a new self-policing mentality, entitled "ATO 2.0" and began to turn things around. In an attempt to personally appeal to its members, House Corporation then conducted an onsite Membership Evaluation on April 10-11, 2010. Each undergraduate member was required to interview one-on-one with a representative of House Corporation to discuss expectations of membership, goals/aspirations, and leadership development. House Corporation was very impressed with the experiences and breadth of qualities and composition of the Chapter's membership. Post-evaluation feedback received from officers and undergraduate members alike was very encouraging. House Corporation is optimistic that positive interferences like these, and ongoing transparent communication regarding expectations and proper management will improve the Chapter's outlook.

Academically, the Chapter's performance has recovered. Following the spring semester, the Chapter ranked #16 out of 46, with an overall Chapter GPA of 3.15. This mark was slightly above the InterFraternity Council GPA of 3.12 but below the All Fraternity and Sorority GPA of 3.26. Continuing to improve the Chapter's overall house GPA is a top priority for the undergraduates for the coming school year.

The philanthropy committee continues to struggle with establishing a marquee philanthropy event; however, it is a goal to accomplish this during the 2010-2011 academic year. In the meantime, undergraduate members continue to demonstrate their leadership prowess by proactively contributing to the community and throughout campus.

### **Announcements**

Outgoing undergraduate President **Matt Dixon** along with other House Committee members was busy during the final days of May finalizing Gamma Zeta's 2010 Annual Report. Gamma Zeta, as it does every year, strives to obtain the National Fraternity's recognition in the form of winning the True Merit award. The National Fraternity will announce all national award recipients later this summer at its biannual Congress.

At Homecoming this fall, House Corporation will be awarding various scholarship grants to undergraduate applicants based on their academic, extracurricular and philanthropic achievements.

Please join me in welcoming our new House Corporation officers: **Jeff Eversden**, Treasurer; **Mike Ronkoske '03**, Vice Chairman; **Andrew Baker '00**, Membership Development. Their experiences, input and valuable guidance will be immensely valuable going forward.

Congratulations to each of the graduating seniors from the Class of 2010!

VTL,

**Jeffrey S. Piper '97**

House Corporation/Board of Trustees  
Chairman

jjpiper@illinoisalumni.org; jsp@svoco.com  
W: 312-267-8757; C: 773-910-4799

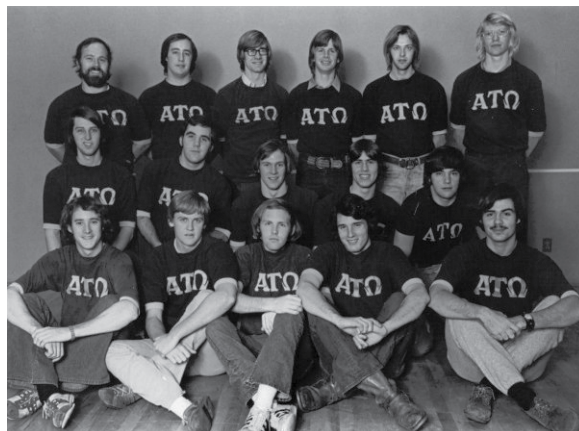
## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Love Old Photos?

So do we. That's why we need your help to build up our online photo archives.

Thank you to **Dane Luhrsen '74** for submitting this great photo to the albums on this Facebook page. He writes, "From the Pete Korst collection... I think this was Rufus and the Phrogues Frat B Football Champions from the Fall of '72."

We want to see the best pictures from YOUR era too. Send them to our editors at [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com), or upload them to our Facebook page. Find a link to our page at [www.atoillinois.com](http://www.atoillinois.com).



## 2010 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

### This Issue of Our Newsletter Brought to You By...

#### True Merit Club (\$500-\$999.99)

Donald W. Leuthold	1948
Thomas W. Hough	1970

#### Maltese Cross Club (\$250-\$499.99)

Douglas M. Howenstein	1989
-----------------------	------

#### Azure & Old Gold Club (\$150-\$249.99)

Thomas G. Hardy	1962
Kenneth G. Venos	1971
Robert F Cavoto	1972

#### 1101 Pennsylvania Club (\$110.10)

James P. McCormick	1955
Morris A. Sunkel	1967
E Michael Houlihan	1970
David J. Koscielniak	1975
William F. McCarty III	1976
Robert G. Credi	1982
Andrew M. Baker	2000

#### Gamma Zeta Friend (\$50-\$110.09)

Edward B. Giller	1938
Stephen D. Stoddard	1947

John H Seiler	1951
William F, McCarty	1952
Peter S. Fernandes	1956
Hal D. McReynolds	1963
Dane K. Luhrsen	1974
Craig A. Nadborne	1975
Mark Butterbach	1995
Mark Andrew Zieba	1997
Daniel Reidy	1999
Jeff Bennett Williams	1999

*Reflects gifts received as of July 16, 2010.*

## ALUMNI EVENTS

### Comcast Sportsnet Sports Awards Dinner a Huge Success

The 22nd Comcast Sportsnet Sports Awards Dinner to support the March of Dimes was a huge success thanks to ATO Gamma Zeta **Bill Barry '74** (the event's Chairman) and a great turnout from many Gamma Zetas!

Approximately 15% of the over \$500K raised for March of Dimes is directly attributable to Gamma Zeta ATOs via attendance at the event, purchase of tables,

donations of silent auction items, purchase of raffle tickets and direct donations. Thanks to everyone who participated in any way!

In addition to Bill Barry, **Eddie McElroy '78** and **Tom Bruce '02** were also on the management committee for the event and put a tremendous amount of time and energy into its success.



# Get Involved with Gamma Zeta in Your Alumni Years

By Jeff Piper '97

There are many ways to extend the ATO experience into your adult years. Here are a few ways to get involved as an alumnus...

**Remember Your Roots** – We are constantly seeking to improve our alumni network and encourage you to visit our web site at [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 ([jbwmail@yahoo.com](mailto:jbwmail@yahoo.com)), is key to improving our communication effort going forward and will be essential in keeping you abreast of Gamma Zeta news and events in the future. Through the website, you are also able to submit updated alumni records on yourselves and brothers, and make donations. Please see the contact information cited in this newsletter.

**Volunteer** – If you are interested in helping out with House Corporation in any capacity, please contact me at the information listed below.

**Dedicated a 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. Good news is that there are more than 40 remaining that 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 donating money that will be used to renovate specific bedrooms at the House, please contact me at the information below.

**Come to Homecoming on Saturday, October 23, 2010** - Homecoming at Illinois is always a special weekend. This year, it will be extra-special as we welcome back to campus those pledge classes celebrating their 30-year and 10-year reunions. We invite you and your families to come join the celebration on campus as Illinois takes on Indiana; kickoff time is set for 11:00am followed

by an all-day tailgate party at the house. Plan on stopping by for a catered cocktail party, live entertainment and socializing with fellow Gamma Zetas. More information will be posted online at [www.atoillinois.com](http://www.atoillinois.com) as the date draws nearer.

On behalf of the House Corporation Board, we sincerely appreciate your commitment and continued involvement in Gamma Zeta. If you have any questions regarding the Chapter, making donations 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, now and 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; ATO Creed

*We need your help to preserve the best ATO moments that have been captured on film. See page 3 for how to submit your best fraternity photos.*



*In this issue...*  
- Update from the Gamma Zeta Worthy Master  
- Chapter House Exceeds 90% Occupancy  
- New House Corp. Officers Announced

427-055 SN

Address Service Requested

Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

P.O. Box 7007  
Alumni Relations Processing Center

**ALPHA TAU OMEGA FRATERNITY**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**



PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
State College, Pa.  
Permit No. 2