

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, August 4 6th Annual Matt Heldman Memorial Golf Outing

This year, the event will be held at Prairie Landing Golf Club, one of only three Robert Trent Jones Jr. designed golf courses in Illinois. We are all set for a 12:30pm shotgun start at the West Chicago course. Much more information and **registration** for the event can be found at www.golfinvite.com/ato and using the **password: heldman**. Register now to save this fun and important date on your calendar!

Please contact
Ryan Anthony '02 at
ryananthony80@gmail.com
if you have any questions.

Saturday, October 7 Homecoming 2006

Please see the article on page 4 for more details.

ON THE WEB

Have you been to our website, www.atoillinois.com, lately?

If you haven't, here's what you're missing out on:

- ❖ Up-to-date news on the Chapter
- ❖ New, organized photo albums
- ❖ Submit an alumni update & read updates posted by your brothers
- ❖ Posting in our new blog
(or reading posts by your friends)

Join your brothers and help to make our site a more active tool for keeping in touch with one another. If you haven't already, take that first step and Register NOW!

Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity
University of Illinois
www.atoillinois.com
May 2006

Gamma Zeta House Corporation Update House Improvements Just the Start to Keep Alpha Tau Omega on Top at Illinois

As the spring semester and another academic year draw to a close, we reflect on the progress we have made at Gamma Zeta Chapter. There have been a number of positive developments at the House, and we have several reminders to pass along to fellow alumni. Below are some of the highlights:

Gamma Zeta Notes

- **Chapter House Improvements** – With over \$30,000 raised between last summer's Cubs Rooftop ATO Outing, hosted by **Bill Barry '77**, **Dan Luhrsen '77** and **Tom Tunney '77**, and the 5th Annual Matt Heldman Memorial Golf Outing held at Ruffled Feathers, the House Corporation dutifully put the money to work and completed some necessary capital improvements at the House. We purchased new living room furniture in October. During semester break, we re-carpeted all the hallways and laid vinyl

hardwood flooring in the front main hallway and performed extensive electrical work, updating the House for potential electrical hazards and providing a more consistent flow of electricity throughout the building. Additional improvements under consideration include improving the landscaping and refurbishing the exterior French doors.

- **Undergraduate Update** – The House continues to build positive momentum and good morale, spearheaded by President **Mike Keeley** and officers. This is clearly evidenced by the increase in live-in numbers and improving academic performance. The number of members living in-house for next fall semester has escalated to 80, up from 60 during the spring semester. Maintaining this 100% capacity rating will be essential to securing our financial flexibility in the coming years. As Mike indicates in his *(Continued on Page 2)*

Jeff Piper '00 Gladly Takes Up The Reins As House Corporation President

Brother wants to give back to the house that has meant so much in his life

Jeff Piper '00 has a sense of loyalty and duty to his fraternity. Having spent some of the best years of his life in the house, Brother Piper knows that it is important to give back. As the new house corporation president, Piper is spending his time and energy to ensure that the ATO house is everything it has been, and can be. Selected by past president **Mark VanZandt '02**, Piper said, "I am thrilled that I was chosen for this position."

As Chairman of the Board of Trustees, it is Piper's responsibility to lead the alumni board. This Board acts as an advisory committee for the undergraduates and the house. As former house officers, the Trustees provide the undergraduates invaluable advice and guidance regarding a number of fraternity issues. For example, if the brothers were to have any questions regarding their philanthropy projects,

the board would be able to give them direction.

Interacting with the students is one of Brother Piper's favorite parts of the job. It allows him to relive his own personal



Piper (top middle) at his August wedding.

experiences while also ensuring the same opportunities and experiences are available to current members. *(Continued on Page 3)*

House Corporation Update *(Continued from Page 1)*

update: the overall house GPA has risen to 3.12, ranked #11 on campus. Specific congratulations are extended to **Christopher Kantas**, who won a campus-wide election for the only student seat on the Board of Trustees for the University.

- **University of Illinois' First Marquee Philanthropy Event** – Plans are underway for the first campus-wide philanthropy event at the University to be held during the 2007 spring semester. Gamma Zeta will spearhead the event as the primary sponsor with the support of a number of other Greek and non-Greek registered student organizations. Watch for more details.

Alumni Notes

- **Summer Rush Referrals** – As we are all fully aware of the importance of a successful new member campaign, please continue to feed the pipeline with new referrals. The Summer Rush Committee is busy planning for an event or two and it would be ideal to include some great prospects in the mix. Please send along any relevant information on proposed candidates to current undergraduate President, Mike Keeley, at mpkeele@uiuc.edu.

- **Remember Your Roots** - We are constantly seeking to improve our alumni network and encourage you to visit our website at www.atoillinois.com. This great tool, which is administered by Affinity Connection and managed internally by our communications

chair, **Jeff Williams** (jbwmail@yahoo.com), is key to improving our communication effort going forward and will be essential in keeping you abreast of Gamma Zeta alumni news, updates and future events.

- **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. Good news is that there are many more 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.

- **Alumni Board Emeritus** – In an effort to continue alumni involvement at all levels, House Corporation has decided to institute a Board Emeritus. Among other things, this group will provide a sounding board to the House Corporation and will meet approximately twice a year. We expect to announce the composition of this appointed group at this summer's Heldman Golf Outing on August 4th.

- **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 as well as implement multiple technology and safety upgrades. More details will be forthcoming.

I would like to thank everyone for the support and encouragement I have received since assuming this position. I would especially like to thank **Mark Van Zandt '02** for his service prior to my tenure, and the current undergraduate students who have made this transition efficient and encouraging. 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.

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, contributions or contacting fellow brothers, please do not hesitate to contact me or other Board of Trustees members.

VTL,

Jeff Piper

House Corporation Board of Trustees Chairman
Gamma Zeta Class of 2000

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Busy Spring Semester Pays Off with Large Pledge Class, Student Trustee and Improved Grades

After a wonderful holiday and a much-enjoyed winter vacation, the Taus were ready to get back on campus to continue the success at the Gamma Zeta house. Thanks to Alumni contributions, we were fortunate to return to a house with brand new carpet and furniture, all installed over break. These improvements make a huge difference in the overall appearance of the house and were just what we needed to spark a successful spring recruitment.

After we initiated 29 fall semester pledges, our rush team spent three weeks making phone calls, holding open houses, and meeting prospective new members. In a tremendous effort, Gamma Zeta was able to recruit 23 new pledges for the spring semester. I am proud to report this is the leading pledge class on campus in terms of both character and size.

In the beginning of every semester, the executive board meets to establish a number of primary goals for the house to accomplish before year's end. One of these goals was to get a member of our house, **Christopher Kantas**, elected as the Student Trustee for the University of Illinois. If elected, Christopher would represent over 36,000 students from Urbana-Champaign on the Board of Trustees, making him one of the most influential students in the state of Illinois. We incorporated Christopher's campaign into our pledge program, and had a sustained effort by all members of Gamma Zeta to accomplish this goal. After much anticipation, Gamma Zeta got their man; Christopher won the election by more than 3,000 votes! We are all truly proud of Christopher, and look forward to the fall semester as he represents Gamma Zeta on a statewide level.

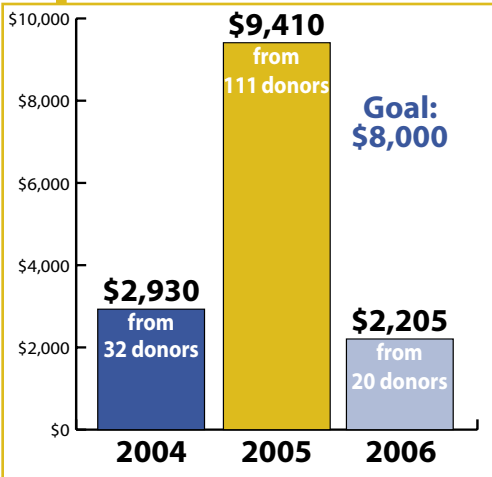
The excitement did not end with Christopher's election. The philanthropy team hosted our semi-annual ATO American Red Cross Blood Drive at the Union. This event assembles hundreds of donors and is considered one of the most successful blood drives in the state. We also hosted the Mother's Day festivities at the house, which included the annual "Taction" which grossed over \$8,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Gamma Zeta also participated in many other service events, including Greeks at Bat, Gamma Phi Taco Dinner, DG Anchor Splash, and Theta Hoops.

Gamma Zeta has climbed to the 11th highest grade point average among fraternities on campus. While we're getting it done in the classrooms, we still know how to have a good time! This semester

(Continued on Page 4)

Are you one of these people?

We hope that you enjoy this issue of *The Gamma Zeta News*. This newsletter, along with our other annual alumni communications and our website, are funded solely by the contributions of our readers. If you're one of the brothers on this list who has donated



so far this year, please accept our appreciation. **It is because of you that all of our brothers can keep up-to-date on the latest news!**

If you have not donated, please consider making a gift to ATO, so that we can ensure that publication of our Alumni Chapter's news continues.

These charts show the progress of Gamma Zeta Alumni Chapter's annual giving over the past three years. You can make a donation through our secure website, www.atoillinois.com, or by calling our toll-free donation hotline at (800) 975-6699.

The success of ATO depends on YOU!

HONOR ROLL

Thank you to the following donors who have supported our annual fund so far this giving year, which runs from January 1-December 31 each year.

Bruce Van Slyke	Thomas W Hough	1970	Cary D McMillan	1977	
Kenneth O Brown	1948	Michael Houlihan	1970	Daniel K Touhy	1977
William B. Hopper	1958	Gary D. Gondzur	1971	Joseph B MacDonald	1992
Michael D. DeYoung	1965	Robert F Cavoto	1972	Ryan E Roth	1992
Richard J Brennan	1969	Craig A. Nadborne	1975	Cory Alan Kotowski	1994
Alan R Dysert	1970	Jack C. Arnold	1977	Jesse Lucco	1997
				Paul Vernon Bishop II	1998
				Charles Stone	1998

ALUMNI UPDATES

'70s

Craig Nadborne '75

(5936 N. Paulina St., #1, Chicago, IL 60660-3272; craignadborne@myexcel.com) Business (still commercial real estate, for 23 years) has been very good. Last year was one of my best years yet, and this year should be equally as good. Physically, I have had a big challenge: that is, I came down with a slipped disk in my back in August 2004. Fortunately, no surgery. With good docs, good medication, lots of exercise and physical therapy, I have gotten my back into a really good place. Basically, I wake up every morning now with no pain. I hope to get back to playing volleyball and tennis sometime soon. Dating-wise: I have been dating the same great guy for the past year: Michael Spencer. We have been getting along great, and it looks wonderful for the future. Travel-wise: I went to Prague for a week in November 2004. I was on an Atlantis

Cruise to the Caribbean in late January/early February. Spent a couple of long weekends in Key West. Michael and I were in Palm Springs in May (for Mother's Day weekend/met the in-laws) and to Orlando for Gay Days in June. Spent a couple of weekends in Saugatuck MI this summer. We were in Provincetown Sept. 8-13 for a Gay wedding. Great memorable weekend. We were planning to go to Key West on Friday for Fantasy Fest but Hurricane Wilma cancelled those plans. So we found a Web fare and went to SF and Napa and had a great, long weekend. We are planning to visit Michael's parents in Palm Springs for Xmas and then another Atlantis Cruise in Jan./Feb.

'90s

Paul Vernon Bishop II '98

(2006 E. Hall St., Olney, IL 62450) I will graduate from SIU School of Law in May 2005. Hope to relocate in the Cook County area after the Bar.

Jeff Piper '00 (Continued from Page 1)

Brother Piper has a number of important issues he would like to address during his term as president. His first step is to rectify a couple of internal issues. While he believes that the leadership is outstanding, Brother Piper would like to make sure that the house is filled with nothing but the finest men. It is important to him that the house manage its image as one of the top fraternities at the University of Illinois. "Our mission is to maintain our status as one of the top chapters of ATO in the country," said Piper.

Brother Piper is also working toward the launch of a capital campaign. "One of our challenging projects is maintaining our 100-year-old house," said Piper. He understands that the house requires a lot of time and effort. It is all a part of giving back to an institution that has been so kind to him. He fondly remembers weekends when ATO paired up with a sorority and blocked off sections of the stadium for football games.

His experiences with the fraternity have enriched his life well beyond his time at the University of Illinois. He met his wife Christina while attending a Jimmy Buffett concert with a couple of his Brothers. They were married in August of 2005. After a number of years as an investment banker, Piper has settled into a career in private equity at Svoboda, Collins in Chicago.

Piper also throws his support behind a number of causes other than ATO. He is extensively involved with the University of Illinois Alumni organization. In support of the arts, he is also involved in fundraising for the Looking Glass Junior Theater. Brother Piper also plays softball, flag football and golf.

Your news and photos are the heart of our website and newsletter. We need your participation to keep our alumni community alive!

Do you have memories from your days at the House you'd like to share? Do you regularly get together with your brothers? Moving? New job? Recently Retire? Get married or have a kid on the way?

Submit your alumni update now by visiting our website, www.atoillinois.com. While you're on the site, don't forget to read the updates that have been submitted by your friends!

Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Join Your Brothers for Homecoming 2006: Saturday, October 7 Class of 1957 Will Celebrate 50 Years as Gamma Zetas

Homecoming will be held on **Saturday, October 7**, with Illinois taking on Indiana. Kickoff time is yet to be announced, but plan on stopping by the house for a catered party and socializing with fellow Gamma Zetas. Other post-game activities will include awarding the undergraduate scholarship winners, a special alumni room renovation dedication, and live entertainment.



ATO's at Bidwells in 1956

Special Note:

At this year's Homecoming, the initiated class of 1957 will be celebrating its 50th year class reunion. **Ronald Henson '60** is coordinating the reunion with help from **Dick Walbaum '60** and **Al Wagner** and all initiated classes of 1957 through 1963 are encouraged to join this milestone celebration. Lodging and the hospitality room will be at the LaQuinta Inn located at 1900 Center Dr in Champaign. There will be dinners planned for both Friday and Saturday nights so please act now if you would like a room and/or tickets. This group last got together in 1996 to rave reviews from all that attended. Contact Ron at **RHENSON@wi.rr.com** with any questions or suggestions.

Busy Semester *(Continued from Page 2)*

was packed with exchanges, impromptu and our annual formal. We had exchanges with the women of Kappa Alpha Theta, Gamma Phi Beta, Alpha Chi Omega, and Kappa Delta. Hopefully they will be coming back for more next semester.

Our guys are busy studying hard for finals, but we are looking forward to an exciting summer, and to meeting many of you. The Matt Heldman Memorial Golf Tournament is always a great success, and the guys are enthusiastic to share stories with the distinguished alumni who passed down the traditions that we enjoy today. I cannot thank all of you enough for your continued support and guidance.

This was my first full semester as Worthy Master, and I look forward to carrying Gamma Zeta forward as the strongest organization on campus. I will be attending the ATO National Congress and Awards Ceremony in August, and am confident we will be taking home our eighth straight True Merit Bowl. If anyone has any questions, thoughts, or concerns, do not hesitate to call (630) 826-5571 or email me at mpkeeley@uiuc.edu.

VTL,
Michael Keeley '07

*There's lots going on! Find out
what your house corporation and
undergraduate brothers are up to!*

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