

NEWS Briefs

Homecoming 2003 ...

What's Keeping You Away?
Saturday, Oct. 25, 2003

8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Brunch at 1101 W.
Pennsylvania Ave.

11:00 a.m.

Kickoff, Fighting Illini vs.
Minnesota

3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Post-game cocktail party
at the house

9:00 p.m. – Close

Private party at local bar
(location TBD)

More Names Added to Donor Plaque

Five new names will be added to the cumulative gifts plaque hanging in the library on Homecoming Weekend. This will bring the number of names on the plaque to 120, representing well over \$1,000,000 in gifts directly to Gamma Zeta. The plaque recognizes the cumulative gifts made directly to Gamma Zeta over the past 30 years. It was custom-made in Champaign and was designed to be able to move names to higher giving levels as individual gifts increase over time. The plaque was dedicated on March 8, 2003. For a complete list of Gamma Zeta donors, please visit www.atogammazeta.com/donors.html.

Gamma Zeta Circle
(\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Barry E. Booth '78

1101 Circle

(\$1,101 - \$4,999)

Keith J. Cunningham '92

Daniel P. Frank '94

Bradley T. Jacobsen '97

J. Ryan Potts '96

Gamma Zeta News



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

Alumni

Profile Matt Menna '90

Making it in the Windy City

It was a terrific pledge dance the year Matt Menna joined Alpha Tau Omega. Following tradition, they chose a popular movie for inspiration and called it, "Full MeTau Jacket." "It was just a great event, and we had the best time planning and preparing for it. Not only was the evening a huge success, our pledge class became really unified as a result of all the hours of hard work together. That feeling lasted through our whole four years," remembered Menna. By the way, he is counting on the brothers remembering that too, as he helps organize activities for his 10-year reunion, presently in the planning stages for an Illini basketball weekend.



Matt and Courtney Menna

There was never any doubt about where Menna would go to college. He followed in his older brother, **Mark's ('86)**, footsteps to Illinois and Alpha Tau Omega. "It was a big pledge class — 32 guys from all over. There was only one person from my high school. We learned to relate well with people from all kinds of different backgrounds. Today, I still keep in touch with at least 10 brothers from my pledge class in the Chicago area," noted Menna. "The fraternity as a whole was always very competitive, particularly in sports. Our pledge class produced the basketball team that beat our own fraternity's senior team in the campus finals that year. It made for a very interesting pledge experience!"

If you follow fraternity events, you know that Menna has stayed very involved since finishing his bachelor's in finance in 1993. He has been on the House Corporation Board since 1993, serving as president from 1995-2000. He is particularly proud of the Centennial Fund drive and how that money has been used to upgrade the chapter house significantly. If you get to the reunion this year, you will see that the bathrooms have been redone, the exterior is updated, a computer facility is now in the basement and the terrace and basketball area are new. "We have really been able to make some great improvements, but there is always more that needs to be done," cautioned Menna.

His junior year, as fraternity president, Menna was especially delighted to meet the future house sweetheart from Alpha Chi Omega, Courtney Ranquist. She became his wife seven years later. Sorority-fraternity romances run in her family. Courtney's aunt and uncle, Barry and Jane Booth, are also an ATO-AXO couple. Courtney's sister Molly, an AXO, is currently dating an ATO whose name is being withheld just in case it doesn't work out!

The Mennas' daughter, Sofia, will be two this December. Menna is anxious for some of his brothers to discover the joys of fatherhood. The couple is grateful for grandparents close to home who allow them to travel and spend time with their friends. "But I especially enjoy doing things with my family now. Sofia is full of surprises!"

He makes a point to set aside that family time; sometimes it is quite a challenge. Menna has been with William Blair, an investment banking and money management firm, for eight years. Menna observed, "Having a strong network in the Chicago area has meant a lot to me.

(Continued on Page 3)

Gamma Zeta News is published for the alumni and friends of the **Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity** at **The University of Illinois**. Address changes, news items, photographs and contributions may be sent in the enclosed envelope; mailed to **Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, Alumni Relations Office, P.O. Box 3244, Oak Brook, IL 60522-3244**.

Outing

4th Annual Alumni Golf Outing 2002 Winners Give a Repeat Performance

Over 120 Gamma Zeta alumni gathered at Chevy Chase Golf Course in Wheeling, Ill., on August 1 for the 4th Annual Matt Heldman Memorial Golf Outing. The weather was threatening to dampen the spirits of the



Congratulations to our 2003 winners — Doug Ausnehmer '88, Andy Small '88, B.W. Bruce '89 and Pat Brankin '89.

participants, but after a short delay, the golf was on! Chevy Chase recently spent over \$3 million renovating the public links golf course, and the course was in great shape for scoring. Five foursomes were neck-in-neck heading into the back nine, but in the end, the 2002 defending champions — **Andy Small '88, B.W. Bruce '89, Pat Brankin '89 and Doug Ausnehmer '88** — finished with a blistering 18 under par to run away with the title. The day was a huge success, and everybody won when over \$10,000 was raised for the Matt Heldman Memorial Scholarship Endowment. **Dan Tarpey '90** was quoted as saying, "I thought the day was well organized. This has to be the best turnout we've ever had." **Quinton Baily '90** added, "It's too bad our team came up short, but what do you expect when you have a bunch of stacked teams? Oh well, we'll get them next year."

Report

By Patrick Jensen '95, House Corporation President

Many Ways to Enjoy Gamma Zeta Brotherhood

As the fall 2003 semester continues, we want to provide you information, updates and color commentary from the House Corporation:

- The 4th Annual Matt Heldman Golf Outing was another outstanding success, raising over \$12,000 in new scholarship money. Thank you to all who participated and contributed.
- The chapter was recognized nationally as a True Merit Chapter — congratulations to the undergrads for a great year.
- The House Corporation is currently adding new members to the team to help with the various responsibilities (i.e., fund-raising, event planning, scholarships, etc.). Please let me know if you are interested in getting involved.
- Even though there is not much football being played in Champaign, you and your family are always welcome to the visit the house during the home football season. Homecoming Weekend (October 24 - 26) will be a great time as many reunion classes are planning on making the trip.
- Check out the Web site at www.atogammazeta.com. We plan to add resume posting for both undergrads and alumni soon. Please provide any comments or feedback via e-mail.
- The House Corporation would like to offer any alumni and/or pledge class the opportunity to petition a room in the house. See details in the article below.

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, contributions or contact with fellow brothers, please do not hesitate to contact me at pjensen@duffllc.com or (312) 697-4665 (O). ■

This Old

House

Gamma Zeta has a reputation of being the best house on campus — both inside and out. There is no argument that the common areas are some of the best of any fraternity house in the country. However, often overlooked is the fact that Gamma Zeta has a reputation of having very unique and modern bedrooms. Many, if not all of us, can remember every room we ever lived in. We spent a lot of good times in those rooms (probably too good to share in this newsletter).

One of the reasons we have such nice bedrooms can be attributed to the Room Petition Program. Each year, the House Corporation works with the chapter officers to identify one to three rooms that are in need of a facelift. Students are asked to submit plans and a brief summary of the expected costs of the renovation. The plans are approved, and the student(s) is allowed to do the

A Room to Call Your Own

work either over the summer or winter break. The work is done in accordance with the current housing codes and in cooperation with the City of Urbana. The House Corporation reimburses the student half of the cost of the renovation (up to a predetermined limit), and the student is allowed to stay in the room until he graduates (foregoing chapter roll). The student must leave all of the furnishings that were included in the renovation when he graduates. (e.g., If the HC paid for half a couch, we keep the entire couch.) The program has been very successful and continues to be today.

Recently, the House Corporation has been receiving requests from alumni interested in donating money earmarked to renovate a specific bedroom and has devised a program to answer this need. Alumni will be able to choose the room they would like to

renovate and will be asked to donate a minimum of \$5,000 for the initial renovation. They will also be asked to match the initial donation, payable over the next 10 years for room upkeep. The House Corporation will place a plaque on the door of the room naming it after the respective alumnus (e.g., "The Simonds Room" or "The Pub by Jack Clark"). The alumni will also work closely with the chapter officers and the student who selected the room in chapter roll to insure the room meets or exceeds expectations on all sides.

Scott Cochrane '80 of Champaign has already committed to renovate the first room, and we have several other alumni who have asked us to reserve certain rooms for them. For more information on how you can reserve a room, please contact Dave Krug '92 at (773) 750-3706 or davekrug1@yahoo.com. ■

An Award-winning Trend Continues

The 2003-2004 school year is now officially underway, and the men at Gamma Zeta of Alpha Tau Omega prepare for what we plan to be another successful year. Our Alpha Tau Omega national headquarters has recently notified Gamma Zeta of the various awards the chapter won for last year's activities. Our chapter won national awards for excellence, recruitment and excellence in scholarship. We were also the recipients of the True Merit Award. This award is given to the top ATO chapters in the country. These accolades would not be possible without the help of our House Corporation, which was the recipient of the Board of Trustees National Finalist Award.

Gamma Zeta is hoping to keep the momentum of last year's achievements going again this year. We have a full social calendar planned for this semester. This includes exchanges with Delta Delta Delta, Alpha Chi Omega and Kappa Alpha Theta. Our football block is with the women of Delta Gamma. In

addition, we have our annual events such as Outhouse, Pledge Dance, Semiformal, Dad's Weekend and Homecoming planned.

The house is preparing to be a Roadshow host chapter for Alpha Tau Omega Nationals. This will profile our house's annual blood drive as a one of the top philanthropy events on campus. It will also give Gamma Zeta an opportunity to showcase the positive impact we have on the University of Illinois and the surrounding community.

The continued success of Gamma Zeta is due to the tireless support of our alumni. The undergrads would like to thank all those who continue to support the house through donations of their time, money and effort. Personally, I would like to thank all those who have offered advice and support throughout my term as president. Once again, if anyone would like to contact the house with suggestions or questions, please call me at (217) 384-3446 or e-mail me at scolaro@uiuc.edu. ■

Alumni Profile, Matt Menna '90 ... continued

When I was getting started, there were always older, successful ATO brothers to call on who were willing to share experience or business advice. Our graduating class saw some of the same challenges faced by graduates today. A lot of people had trouble finding jobs, and the economy was stressed." Menna sees the present economy in a healing mode. He has some new business ventures of his own to help along the local economy. He learned a thing or two about having a good time while living in the fraternity house. He has opened two new upscale neighborhood tavern-restaurants in Chicago, the Schoolyard Tavern & Grill and the Gaslight Bar & Grille. Some of you might find a dessert specialty, the skillet cookie, familiar!

The Mennas are also excited about another kind of new effort. "We have joined with a fraternity brother, **Chad Wanless '90**, in starting a charity program called Better Times. The organization's vision is to raise money for underserved youth programs in the greater Chicago area. We had worked with other large programs before, but we felt this was a need that deserved more focused attention," explained Menna.

You can contact Matt Menna to share in this charity effort, find out about the upcoming reunion or contribute to the ongoing needs of the house or ... well ... for just about anything at (312) 364-8629 or mmenna@williamblair.com. ■

Alumni

UpDates

Earl S. Constant '30

(12892 SW Dickson St, Tigar, OR 97224-2181) In the last couple of years, I have been glad to stay at home and take it easy.

Thomas A. Clark '39

(504 First St. N.E., Apt. 225, Sartell, MN 56377; thomasclark2@compuserve.com) I am now living in a retirement apartment, and my wife, Betty, is in an adjacent nursing home.

D. L. Young '50

(617 W Main St., Ste. E, Aspen, CO 81611-1619) I am selling my investment advisory firm for skiing, golf and tennis. I serve as the director of Aspen Jr. Golf. I am honorary ambassador for the Ski Company. If you are in Aspen-Snow Mass, give me a call and we will give you a tour.

Robert K. Smith '57

(7612 88th Ave. S.W., Lakewood, WA 98498-4910) Retired but very busy with eight grandchildren.

Pledges & Seniors

Welcome, Class of 2004

Jeremy Andrews – Oak Lawn
Mike Bahnick – Vernon Hills
Joel Barenbrugge – Naperville
Brian Brown – Girard
Nick Chiganos – Vernon Hills
Jimmy Curley – Lake Forest
John Divita – Buffalo Grove
Steve Enriquez – Glenview
Chris Friederich – Buffalo Grove
Mike Ganey – Long Grove
Ryan Jakebek – Naperville
Blake Jeffers – Naperville
Mike Keeley – Chicago
Tim Lackie – Vernon Hills
Nick Lussow – Arlington Heights
Peter Mangan – Hinsdale
Wally Martin – Chicago
Brent Moore – Champaign
Dave Patterson – Long Grove
Steve Pilcher – Hinsdale
Tim Rogers – Glenview
Joe Schifferdecker – Belleville
Matt Snyder – Hinsdale
Brian Tansey – Oak Lawn
Matt Vuckovich – Buffalo Grove
Liam Winters – Oak Lawn
Larry Zerante – Elmhurst

Good luck, seniors!

Barrett Aaron – Finance
Blake Ahitow – Pol. Sci./Speech Comm.

Erik Aister – Education
John Barrett – Accounting
Ryan Burns – Accounting
Ryan Caltigerone – Finance
Jeff Clousing – Aviation
Chris Conversa – Finance
Phil Coover – Pol. Sci.
Erick DaMota – Engineering
Bill Flaherty – Accounting
Kevin Ittner – Engineering
Nate Jackson – Horticulture
Trent Jackson – Pol. Sci.
Jim Kain – Finance
Adam Kohn – Marketing
Chris Lesmes – Pol. Sci.
Dave Lewicki – Economics
Dave Matheis – Finance
Dave Meister – History
John Mings – Accounting
Steve Ockrim – Material Sci.
Pat Olson – Leisure Studies
Donkey Dave Pavlik – Finance
Mike Piper – Marketing
Jovan Radlovich – Finance
Adam Ragauskis – Accounting
Vitas Ripskis – Accounting
Bill Rohe – Finance
Jeff Scolaro – English/Pol. Sci.
James Shea – Finance
Jason Stroud – Finance
Matt Stuebe – Finance
Jerry Travelstead – Pol. Sci.
Rob Walters – Finance
Dustin Wesley – Economics
Chris Wetmore – Finance
Nick Williams – Finance
Joe Wolsfeld – Finance

(Continued on Page 4)

Alumni UpDates

(Continued from Page 3)

Bradley B. Palmer '58

(212 E. First St., Hinsdale, IL 60521-4203; bradley.b.palmer@abc.com) Voted Illinois Sportscaster of the Year for the ninth time by the National Sportscasters and Sports-writers Association. I have a son, Dayton, and a daughter in graduate school.

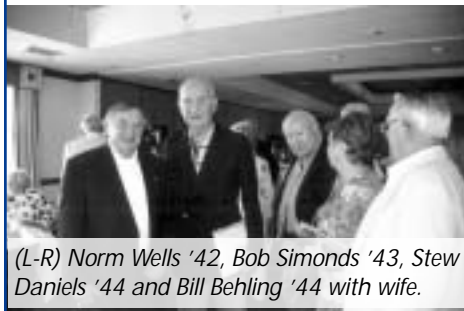
Gary A. Legwold '69

(5205 Knox Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55419-1041; glegwold@lutefisk.com) I played a wet round of golf with **Tom Krzeczowski '69** last spring, and it was fun to catch up. I am a writer (five books) and my wife, Jane, is a psychotherapist. My daughter, Kate, is in high school and son, Ben, will enroll at the University of Kansas in the fall.

Jeffrey C. McGill '70

(2408 Melrose Dr, Champaign, IL 61820-

Norman D. Wells '42



(L-R) Norm Wells '42, Bob Simonds '43, Stew Daniels '44 and Bill Behling '44 with wife.



Dave Vaughan '42 (center) with wife and Hugh Cross '46.

(4 Carolina Mdws., Apt. 302, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8524; ndwells21@aol.com) On Sunday, 3/16/03, 11 Gamma Zeta ATOs and their spouses gathered for a Sunday brunch at the Island Club on Marco Island, Fla. Unusual? Not until you consider that 54 to 64 years have passed since these men first met and lived as brothers at 1101 West Penn. in Champaign-Urbana, Ill., 2,000 miles distant.

7607) Susan and I have four children — Elliott (18), Tyler (16), Colin (13) and Sarah (9). Summer days are filled with golf, swimming and baseball.

Tom O. Minner '75

(3485 Newport Bay Dr., Alpharetta, GA 30005-7820; tm4224@attglobal.net) Just saw **Robert Lundstedt '75** in Phoenix.

Craig A. Nadborne '75

(5936 N. Paulina, First Fl., Chicago, IL 60660-3372; cnads@myexcel.com) In February 2003, **Bill Barry '74**, **Dane Luhrsen '74** and myself organized a fundraiser for **Tom Tunney '74** who was running for alderman in the 44th Ward in Chicago. We rented a bar in the Ward, which was owned by **Matt Menna '90**. We collected over \$8,000 for Brother Tunney's campaign. Over 50 brothers gathered that evening to watch the Illini beat Michigan State. Over 90 percent of them came from outside of Chicago and only 2 percent of the donors lived in the

ward and could vote for Tom Tunney. Tom won the election.

Gary A. Ewing '78

(8608 Hallet, Lenexa, KS 66215) My oldest daughter is in her senior year of high school and thinking seriously about Illinois.

Michael A. Terry '90

(1476 Bueffehr Creek Rd., Vail, CO 81657; materry55@aol.com) Lynne and I had our first child, William. I am taking a fellowship with the Steadman Hawking Clinic in Vail, Colo.

Patrick Martin '92

(P.O. Box 820, Wilton, CT 06897-0820; pmartin@fathomsolutions.com) Moving to Zagreb, Croatia, for 18 months.

Andrew B. Parks '95

(4162 Honor Dr., Frisco, TX 75034-6312; drewparks181@cs.com) Married 6/7/03 to Staci Weaver. Promoted to training manager for Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Joseph Tek Yun '98

(P. O. Box 2016, Champaign, IL 61825; joetekyun@yahoo.com) I left my job consulting in Chicago to start seminary classes in Urbana. I plan to take Christianity to college campuses.

Jonathan Nassos '99

(3744 Whirlaway Dr, Northbrook, IL 60062-6314; jtn22@aol.com) Received my Doctor of Medicine degree in June 2003.

Since publication of our last issue, we have learned of the death of **Frederick E. Seyfried '30** and **Carl T. Meyer '39**. Alpha Tau Omega extends sincere condolences to their families and friends. ■

Latest news on your brothers inside!

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