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FIND US ON FACEBOOK

We will be refreshing the website to include a more streamlined design and greater integration with our Facebook Group (Alpha Tau Omega - Gamma Zeta - Illinois) in order to keep you informed and connected with your brothers and the house.



UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

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Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity

University of Illinois

www.atoillinois.com

September 2011

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

We are at a Pivotal Point in the History of Gamma Zeta I-Week to Be Replaced With TAC Initiative Leadership Program

By Mike Ronkoske '00, Vice Chairman of Gamma Zeta Board of Trustees

I had lunch with **Jeff Piper '97**, Chairman of the Gamma Zeta Board of Trustees (BOT) and **David Krug '92**, member of the Alpha Tau Omega National Board of Directors, in early 2009 to discuss the future of Gamma Zeta. One thing was clear, the BOT needed to inject some new blood in order to replace members that had been involved for years and were ready to transition off.

"Our goals are to revamp new member development, recruitment and even the way that we conduct ritual in order to foster a more meaningful and impactful undergraduate experience for pledges and actives."

Since then, 75% of the BOT membership is all new. Two of the most notable new board members, **Jeff Eversden '02** (Treasurer) and **Andrew Baker '00** (Membership Development), provide daily support in running the BOT & House Corporation. They have also committed to running a BOT that strives to prevent burnout by dividing up the roles and responsibilities of the BOT evenly among themselves as well as Piper and I. Also, with their help, we are actively enlisting the support of the National Fraternity and Gamma Zeta Alumni just like you to offer assistance where needed.

The reason I bring this up is because we are at a pivotal point in the history of Gamma Zeta and need everyone's support in embracing some much needed changes. By the time you read this, we, the BOT, in collaboration with

the current Undergraduate Executive Board and the ATO National Fraternity, will have replaced I-Week/Initiation week with an all-new leadership development program called TAC INITIATIVE (named for the late Thomas Arkle Clark, one of the founders of the Gamma Zeta Chapter as well as our first initiate and whose house we still reside in to this day). Pledgeship will now culminate with TAC INITIATIVE's four-day leadership training and development program that is built on the principles of ATO that have made us America's Leadership Fraternity. Our goals are to revamp new member development, recruitment and even the way that we conduct ritual in order to foster a more meaningful and impactful undergraduate experience for pledges and actives.

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Patrick Jensen '95, former House Corporation President and recipient of the Thomas Arkle Clark Award, the highest honor an undergraduate can receive, as well as Wynn Smiley, CEO of Alpha Tau Omega National Fraternity, will be assisting with TAC INITIATIVE along with the rest of the BOT. If you or any of your pledge brothers would like to get involved in the BOT at any level, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at mronkoske@gmail.com.

ALUMNI NEWS

Now It's Time to Give Back to Bob!

Join Bob Simonds '43 and Walk4Life in His Battle Against ALS

If you have ever had the privilege of meeting **Bob Simonds '43**, then surely you will fondly remember his insatiable dedication to ATO and Gamma Zeta. He served as Worthy Master of Gamma Zeta (as well as at two other universities while he was an undergrad!), established the Robert J. Simonds Scholarship at Gamma Zeta, served as ATO National's Worthy Grand Chief from '86 - '90 and received the National President Award for "Exemplary service to ATO for a lifetime".

Now it's time to give back to Bob! He has been diagnosed with ALS ("Lou Gehrig's Disease") and is an outpatient at the ALS Clinic at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. He has received so much support from the Les Turner ALS Foundation that he and his family have decided to participate in the 10th annual ALS Walk4Life on September 10, 2011.

This is where Bob needs our help. If you or anyone you know is willing and able to either formally join the Bob Simonds Team

and walk with him on September 10, or make a donation in Bob's honor to the Les Turner ALS Foundation (<http://goo.gl/KIWaI>), please join this great and personal cause that hits home for so many of us that know of and admire Bob. Better yet, after you have joined in support, we bet Bob would love it if you were to send him an email thanking him for all of his years of service and support: robert.simonds.1@gmail.com.

Read more about Bob at www.atoillinois.com.

ALUMNI UPDATES

'40s

Cameron Murchison '43

(7905 Hillfawn Circle, Dallas, TX 75248) I retired over six years ago. What would I have learned at the University of Intimidation of "Chambana" without my super Alpha Tau Omega brother to help in every way to prevent a flunk-out? We couldn't ever talk to our professors, no T.A.s... They tried many ways to flunk us out! They chose my classes, taking up "only" 20.5 hours with Advanced Chem, Math, etc. All I enjoyed was ROTC, band and ATO.

John W Carlson '44

(9529 Harding Ave, Evanston, IL 60203-1019) After 60 years of managing old downtown office buildings, I'm retiring as manager of the Chicago Temple Building and wish my golf game was better. We look forward to Bob Simonds' move to Chicago.

'70s

Alan Dysert '70

(1701 Bluelake Ct., Franklin, TN 37064; dysertalan@aol.com) Most of my longest lasting friendships were made at ATO. My best memory of those days is the Outhouse Scramble. Today I can say that three of my students at my acting school have a TV series! Miley Cyrus, Disney's Hannah Montana; Chord Overstreet, Fox's Glee; and Rachel Dipillo, with ABC's The Gates. One of my teachers, David Keith, also has a new show on Fox called Lonestar.

Michael Houlihan '70

(7330 Maryland Ave., St. Louis, MO 63130; mhoulihan@hdcst1.com) My best ATO memory is having Tom Krozeczosky as a roommate. Now I'm a grandfather to four. I created a new business and have hopes "Without Limits."

David "Koz" Koscielniak '75

(12310 W. Waterford Ave., Greenfield, WI

53228; kozkids77@hotmail.com) My best ATO memory was the time **Dave Holton '75** closed his window during our snowball fight on the front lawn thinking he was safe. Wrong! I fired the snowball thought the glass, which exploded into his room. He slowly lifted the lower sash and said, "I can't believe you did that!" I am currently working like I did 30 years ago due to the depressed architecture and construction markets. It's good to know my work ethic has not changed, I remain positive.

James Cavoto '77

(3628 Shakespeare Ln., Naperville, IL 60564; Otovac@aol.com) My best memory from my fraternity days was winning consecutive frat-blue football championships followed by a victory celebration at Kams! As Carp would say "We're turf-tested twice." I still hang out with 10-15 of my pledge brothers. Golfing with the bros and getting together as often as possible. After 23 years in the U.S. Air Force, I moved back to Illinois. It's great to be back, get to see more Illini games and hang with family and friends again.

Share YOUR story at www.atoillinois.com.

Ideas include:

- **News of weddings, babies, career changes, etc.**
- **Funniest memories from your days as an undergrad or alumnus**
- **Reunion stories and photos**
- **Photos from the good ol' days as undergrads**

Gamma Zeta Humor and Brotherhood Laid the Groundwork for Outstanding Success for Cary McMillan '77



Cary McMillan '77

Cary McMillan '77 grew up in Urbana, so he and his friends from high school naturally had their sights set on attending the University of Illinois. They also had the advantage of participating in rush the spring before his freshman year. Seniors scheduled to enter the University the following fall were given the opportunity to come to campus for a weekend and rush all three stages.

There were dozens of fraternities on campus at the time, but he gravitated toward

Alpha Tau Omega.

"The Gamma Zeta Chapter had a lot going for it," Cary said. "The house itself was the nicest on campus and the older guys were great. They made you feel comfortable right away."

Cary was able to move into the Gamma Zeta house the first semester of his freshman year. He considered it a great advantage to understand where he was going to live that August and said he was very excited to join the house.

"The house had about 80 guys living in it. In those days there were fewer off campus housing options and people just lived in the house longer. Many of us, including myself, lived in the house all four years," Cary said. "The atmosphere of the house itself was a very lively and diverse environment. There were guys involved in doing everything – studying, dominating at intramural sports, playing backgammon, playing cards, and going out on the town."

"Best of all, I had the pleasure of living with some of the funniest guys I've ever

known in my life. I laughed the entire four years I lived there," Cary said.

He mentioned two brothers in particular, **Bruce "Carp" Barry '77** and **Jim "Cavots" Cavoto '77** as two of the most outrageous among the brothers.

"Carp would do anything to get a laugh. Crazy stunts that would make you cringe like *you just don't do that*. But he would do it and it would get a laugh even out of the older guys. He had the fastest sense of humor and could keep you laughing" Cary said.

Keeping the ATO Experience Alive as an Alum

The brothers from Cary's era have stayed very close, and 80% of them attended Homecoming last year.

"When we got together again it was like we never left," Cary said. "We spent most of the time laughing, usually at each other's expense. I've remained best of friends with many of them to this day."

Read the full article at www.atoillinois.com

Reconnect with Cary at cmac@TPCtax.com.

Monthly Luncheons Keep Don Ainsworth '42 Connected with Fellow Brothers and ATOs from Other Chapters



Don Ainsworth '42

From the moment he first rushed Alpha Tau Omega, the fraternity stood out above all others and Don Ainsworth knew it would be the fraternity for him. Now, some seventy years later, Ainsworth reflects fondly on his college years with the fraternity and continues to be involved with the organization as an alumnus.

"Being an ATO has been a tremendous plus in my life," Ainsworth said. "If I could go back, I wouldn't want to relive just one moment- I would want to relive all four ATO years."

While reliving his college years is not a viable option, Ainsworth enjoys being able to stay active within the fraternity organization that he says has done so much for him.

"The best thing about my alumni experience has been the opportunity to stay in touch with many of my Illinois ATO brothers and to meet many ATOs from other chapters via our monthly luncheons," Ainsworth said.

The monthly luncheons are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Greenbriar Hills Country Club in Kirkwood, Missouri. Ainsworth strongly encourages members to take advantage of opportunities such as these.

"I would encourage not only ATOs, but members of all fraternities to make their fraternity membership a life-long experience," Ainsworth said.

Ainsworth graduated from Illinois in 1942, after which he served as an FBI agent and a cryptographer for the U.S. Navy. He then graduated from the Washington University Law School and went into the insurance business. The highlight of his insurance career was being appointed as insurance commissioner for the state of Missouri by Governor Kit Bond. In addition, he has served on the Kirkwood, Missouri, city council as president of the Kirkwood Chamber of Commerce, as president of the St. Louis County Library Board, and on numerous other boards and committees.

Find Don in the searchable directory at www.atoillinois.com to reconnect with him!

CHAPTER REPORT

Gamma Zeta Launches Signature Philanthropy Event, Raises \$5,000

By Dan Passarella, Incoming Gamma Zeta President

dpassarella16@gmail.com

I have been greatly anticipating the opportunity to become president all summer long, especially on the heels of a tremendously successful 2010-11 academic year. Of the many highlights, perhaps our greatest accomplishment was the establishment of ATO Recess. For quite some time the house lacked a true signature philanthropy event, but thanks to the efforts of **Steven Ogdon** and his team, we were able to create a fundraiser where sororities competed in events

such as sand volleyball, 3-on-3 soccer and flag football. The event was a huge success in its inaugural year, raising \$5,000, and we look forward to continuous success in coming years. We also raised \$8,000 during our Mom's Weekend charity auction, to benefit The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

At the house, the dining room has been fully furnished with a brand new set of tables and chairs. We also hired a new chef, Terian Reed, who impressed us from the start

by preparing quality food from scratch for 100+ guys, something that seemed nearly impossible in years past. It's safe to say that house morale is on the rise.

I await the start of 2011-12 with great excitement, as there is no limit to where our current membership and leadership team are capable of taking Gamma Zeta. We appreciate your continued involvement with our chapter.

HOMECOMING

Calling All Alumni, Especially Those Celebrating a Milestone Reunion

We Hope to See You at Homecoming October 1

Calling all brothers from '91, '96, '01 and '06! Gamma Zeta would like to welcome alumni celebrating their 20, 15, 10 and 5 year reunions during Homecoming weekend. Get in touch with your pledge brothers and make plans to catch up in person at the house.

Of course, we welcome brothers from all class years to celebrate with us during Homecoming, and to share details of their own planned tailgates and events.

If you have already made tailgating plans or know of something in the works, we encourage you to share them with your

brothers at www.atoillinois.com or on Facebook (just search for "Alpha Tau Omega - Gamma Zeta - Illinois").



The Class of 1980 celebrating their 30th reunion at Homecoming 2010.

If Homecoming is not an option, here are seven more reasons why you should make the trek back:

Sept. 3.....Arkansas State 2:30 PM CT
 Sept. 10..... South Dakota State 11 AM CT
 Sept. 17..... Arizona State 6 PM CT
 Sept. 24..... Western Michigan
 (Foundation Day) TBD
 Oct. 1 Northwestern
 (Homecoming) 11 AM CT
 Oct. 15 Ohio State TBD
 Nov. 12 Michigan (Dad's Day) TBD
 Nov. 19 Wisconsin TBD

In this Issue...
 - "I-Week" gets a makeover!
 - Updates from your brothers!
 - Giving back to Bob Simonds '43

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