



Dear Fellow ATOs,

My name is Bill Forsyth, and I'm an '83 Gamma Zeta. I am also a member of the Scholarship Committee that reviews applications and determines which Gamma Zetas deserve which scholarships. Speaking on behalf of the committee, I appreciate your willingness to serve as mentor for these young men, and I would strongly encourage you to share the spirit of this letter—or the letter itself—with each mentee, as it will hopefully help them not only with scholarship applications, but with improving their college experience as well.

The Scholarship Committee met on October 2 and reviewed applications, and it would be an understatement to say that we were underwhelmed with the level and caliber of campus-wide activity and service from the undergraduates at Gamma Zeta. Don't get me wrong...academics are critical and cannot be overly stressed; good grades lead to good jobs...period. House leadership is also important both to preserve the quality of the house itself and to provide guidance and structure for those who live there. That said, grades and house participation are just part of the overall equation.

Campus and community involvement are integral in building leaders for the future, and the opportunities to get involved at the University of Illinois are virtually limitless. One of the criteria for the Matt Heldman Memorial Scholarship is "extensive involvement in multiple campus organizations." I applaud those who had the foresight to make this a standard for the award. More Gamma Zetas need to take advantage of the myriad clubs and organizations the university provides, and serving in a leadership capacity is even more constructive.

Gamma Zetas should bear in mind that campus involvement and leadership reflects positively on not just the student himself but on ATO as a whole. Moreover, as an employer, I'm always looking for individuals who are well-rounded as opposed to one-dimensional. Campus leadership and community service are leading indicators of success, and those who are active outside the house are often the same ones who earn the highest starting salaries coming out of college. By not participating in campus and community organizations, Gamma Zetas are needlessly limiting their competitive position in the marketplace and missing out on some of the top jobs available.

Having been active in various campus organizations during my college years, I can honestly say that the opportunities provided were every bit as fulfilling and important to my future success as was what I learned in the classroom. Interacting with other students, faculty, administration and alumni broadens your perspective, broadens your network and broadens your college experience. You'll be a better person, and you'll be a better ATO.

Thank you for guiding and advising these young men. Please stress how important it is to get involved in clubs and associations across the campus. They will be forever grateful to you for this advice in the years to come.

VTL,

President

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