

## HOMECOMING 2017



### Join ATO for a Weekend of Brotherhood!

#### Friday, October 27

5:30 AM – 7:00 PM - Board of Trustees/Undergraduate Executive Team Meeting – Chapter House – All alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend

#### Saturday, October 25, 2014

8:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Brunch at Chapter House featuring our food service – Upper Crust

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM – Ceremony at Chapter House

Awarding of Timson, Clausing, Simmonds, Heldman and Philbrick Scholarships

Celebration and recognition of Chapter's True Merit Status from ATO National

11:00 AM - Illini vs. Wisconsin football game

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM - Post Game Victory Celebration

Cash Bar and hot appetizers

Please stop by the house either before or after the game to say hello and meet our undergraduate members.

## VOLUNTEERS!

Alumni volunteers are needed in a number of key roles. We can use help. Please reach out to Jack Klues ([kluesjack@yahoo.com](mailto:kluesjack@yahoo.com)) or Dane Luhrsen ([Daneluhrsen@gmail.com](mailto:Daneluhrsen@gmail.com)) if you'd be interested in participating. Regardless of the time you have available or your particular skills, we can use your help.



# Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity

University of Illinois

[www.atoillinois.com](http://www.atoillinois.com)

October 2017

## CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENT

### Gamma Zeta achieves 21st True Merit Award

True Merit – what does it mean in your life? For the actives of Gamma Zeta, it means hard work, and attentiveness to goals.

The men of ATO at Illinois brought home this coveted award for their work during the 2016-2017 academic year, for the first time since 2007—and they couldn't be more proud. GZ was also recognized for its Recruitment, Communication, Professional Development, and Alumni Involvement in addition to True Merit. We spoke with several of those tied to the Chapter, both Alumni and active Brothers.

"I am from Elmhurst, Illinois and am a junior studying finance," said Chapter Worthy Master, Daniel Reinke. "I have also held the positions of Scribe and Pledge Class President in the past. I participate in intramural softball and basketball and I am a top member of Finance Club and Phi Beta Lambda Business Organization."

Reinke went on to explain that the True Merit Award is a trophy awarded to the top ATO Chapters in the Country.

"My role in achieving this award was to make sure my Executive team was keeping up with the implementation of our Chapter's goals," said the Worthy Master.

"Every ATO chapter in the country is expected to compile a True Merit report that contains everything their chapter has accomplished in the past year. The report also contains important chapter specific documents and grade reports. It is a very large document



that paints a picture of each chapter. We submitted our report in May and I attended the yearly ATO National Awards Ceremony in August and accepted the award on behalf of Gamma Zeta.

This benefits Gamma Zeta because it shows the progress we have made as a chapter. This is the first time we have won the award in a decade so it is monumental and gives the chapter a push to keep

striving for greatness. My advice to future undergraduates would be to stay on top of your schoolwork, commit time and effort to philanthropy, and uphold the standards of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity."

"As I mentioned Gamma Zeta has come a long way in reaching True Merit," said Jaden Brown, current ATO Performance Coach. "The measure of True Merit is how you are doing in all operations of the organization. We have been building up each arm over the course of the past years with this past school year being the year we got all the pieces put together resulting in the chapter bringing home its first True Merit in a long time."

"The Chapter benefitted because they saw the award and praise given to them for all of their hard work over the past school year. On the alumni side of things they were proud of Gamma Zeta and excited to be part of one of the top organizations in the country."

"True Merit is not easy to win the first time, but it is harder to win it continuously. " I say

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## PHILANTHROPY

### 2nd Annual Feed My Starving Children Event at Armory

*ATO Shines In The Community!*

For the second year in a row, our Chapter has led an incredibly successful mobile pack event for Feed My Starving Children on Sunday, September 24. This is a massive effort which involved months of planning including raising over \$20,000 to fund the event. The day of the event brought together over 322 total volunteers who packed 106,262 meals that will support 291 malnourished children around the world for an entire year. Thanks to **Jack Klues '77** and **Jack Doron '10** for providing alumni leadership. Nathan Meier and Billy Cihlar were the undergraduate chairmen. Awesome work guys!!



## ALUMNI REUNION

### 1970's Classes to Celebrate 40th Anniversary Celebration Weekend

*The classes of 1976, 1977 and 1978 are celebrating their 40th Reunion on November 10th and 11th. All Gamma Zeta's are welcome to join in any of the activities.*

#### Friday, November 10

4:30 - 6:30 pm - **Cocktail party** at Brickhouse Tavern at 3647 N Clark St. (owned by Gamma Zeta **Matt Menna '93**) which is a very cool new spot right next to Wrigley. This will be a cash bar so no need for reservations.

7:00 - 9:30 pm - **Dinner** hosted by **Tom Tunney '77** at Ann Sather's, (909 W Belmont). Cost is \$25/

person. Squared is going to do it up right just like he learned from Marie and Joan!! Please pay in advance before Friday, November 3 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-ato-gamma-zeta-40th-reunion-tickets-37135574503>

#### Saturday, November 11

TBD - **departure** (depending upon FB game time) - **Bus from Chicago** to Champaign. We will leave from the Guesthouse Hotel (4872 N Clark St. Chicago) and make a stop at the Hinsdale Oasis to pick up local guys who won't be staying at the Guesthouse. Cost will be \$65/person. Please pay in advance prior to Friday,



October 13 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-ato-gamma-zeta-40th-reunion-tickets-37135574503>

TBD - **Tailgate** - still working on details for this

TBD - **Illini Football Game vs. Indiana** in Reunion block - tickets are \$52/ person. Please pay in advance by Friday, October 13 at [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-ato-gamma-](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-ato-gamma-zeta-40th-reunion-tickets-37135574503)

[zeta-40th-reunion-tickets-37135574503](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-ato-gamma-zeta-40th-reunion-tickets-37135574503)

Post-game - **Casino night at ATO House** - the guys are going to set up the house like a casino with professional dealers and a variety of games set up - Craps, Black Jack, Roulette, etc. It's done as a fund raiser for Feed My Starving Children and there will be about a \$100 entry fee which will include donation, games, drinks, food and tons of prizes. Please pay in advance by Friday, October 27 at - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-ato-gamma-zeta-40th-reunion-tickets-37135574503>

Post Casino - **Return bus** to Hinsdale Oasis and Guesthouse

## Here's What We've Been Up To!

**Greg Hart '10** – has been appointed to finish the unexpired term of former DuPage County Board member John Curran representing District 3.

**Dane Luhrsen '77** – was named cycling Rider of the Year for Illinois/Wisconsin for his 60-64 age group for the second year in a row. He also won the Illinois State Criterion Championship and the season-long series including the Tour of Illinois/Wisconsin and the Mid-America Time Trial Series in his age group.

**Ron Henson '60** – won two second place finishes in cycling at the Wisconsin Senior Olympics in August in the 10K Time Trial and the 20K Road Race.

**Dr. Seth Berl '78** - is featured on this billboard in Honduras for leading Medical/Dental mission trips for over 25 years.

**Kevin Finke '92** was named Human Resource Executive's 2017 Rising Star.



*Dr. Seth Berl '78*

**Dan Tarpey '94's** firm Tarpey Wix wins \$1.2m settlement for **Matt Menna '93's** Sterling Bay. Now that's taking care of a brother!

Congrats to **Dr. David Teuscher '80** who was sworn in as Regional Administrator for Intergovernmental and External Affairs for Region 6 that will serve as President Trump and Secretary Doctor Price's head of the

Dallas Health and Human Services regional office for Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and 68 Indian Tribes.

**Phillip Coover '04** has started a very entertaining and successful podcast titled "Real Estate for Breakfast". Among his guests have been Gamma Zetas **Craig Nadborne '78**, **Bob Cavoto '75** and **Rob Walters '05**. Check it out at - <https://www.realestatebreakfast.com/real-estate-for-breakfast/>

**Bruce Barry '80** was elected Mayor of Taylorville, IL last April.

Head Coach **Mike Small '88** led the Illini Men's Golf Team to a third consecutive NCAA Semifinalist finish and third consecutive Big Ten Championship title during the 2016-17 campaign. Mike was named Big Ten Coach of the Year for the ninth time and was also inducted into the Golf Coaches Association of America Hall of Fame.

## DIAMOND CIRCLE

We are saddened to announce the passing in February 2017 of one of our Diamond Circle Members (75 Years as an ATO).

Former Grosse Pointe resident **William James "Bill" Lane**, 95, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2017. He was predeceased by his wife of 74 years, Marie, in December 2016.

Bill was born May 29, 1921, at Providence Hospital in Detroit. He was a 1938 graduate of Highland Park High School, a 1942 graduate of the University of Illinois and earned his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1948. From 1942 to 1945, Bill served in the U.S. Navy and attained the rank of lieutenant. His ensign's stripe was earned at the USNR Midshipmen's School at Columbia University in New York.

Following the war, Bill was a staff attorney at Kaiser Frazer Corp. In 1953, he joined Bohn Aluminum & Brass Corp., where he remained 31 years, surviving mergers with Universal American and Gulf Western Industries. During this time, he held various titles, including assistant to the president, secretary and vice president legal counsel.

Bill's civic and business activities included president of the Detroit Regional Group of the America Society of Corporate Secretaries, president of the Senior Men's Club of Grosse Pointe,



president of the Grosse Pointe Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, member of the Corporate Contributions Committee of the Detroit Chamber of Commerce and member of the Economic Club of Detroit.

Bill and his wife were members of the Detroit Boat Club, Lochmoor Club and Detroit Athletic Club. Bill's hobbies included golf, tennis and boating, but most of all singing, which began in grade school, continued through high school and onward into the Men's Varsity Glee Club at the University of Illinois.

He was a member of six different church choirs, finishing with 15 years in the choir of St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church. Bill also was a member

of the Grosse Pointe Theatre where he appeared with solo parts in "The Pirates of Penzance" and "Of Thee I Sing." In more recent years, his principal singing was with the Grosse Pointe Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, which he joined in 1978.

Bill is survived by his children, W. James "Jim" Lane, Sheryl M. Lane and Bryan R. (Kimberly) Lane; grandchildren, Kelley, Carolyn, Matthew, Michael, Patrick and Marie and five great-grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by his daughter, Leigh Anne LePlae.

## ACTIVES ABROAD



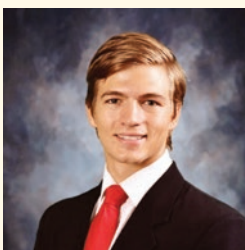
### The Most Fun They've Had!

'18s Austin Okuno and Matt Grens pose for a picture during study abroad last semester with fellow UIUC classmates. Austin and Matt backpacked around Europe and describe their semester as "the most adventurous and fun they've had."

## CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

### Undergrad Helps Develop Professional Skills

Neal Currie is the treasurer of Phi Beta Lambda, a prestigious business club in which the overall purpose is to develop members professional skills and prepare them for the work world after college. Neal takes on the role of maintaining and spending the organizations money in a responsible fashion.



## UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

### Featured Pledge—Welcome Ilya!

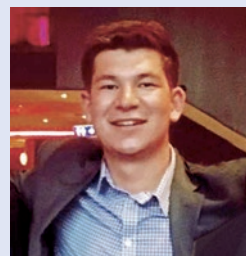
Ilya Arif is a '21 and has just begun his journey with ATO. He is leaving next semester for boot camp to become a US Marine. He will be trained as a combat satellite technician. He is studying bioengineering at UIUC and hopes to eventually become an officer in the Marines.



## GREEK OSCARS

### ATO Brings Home The Hardware!

At this year's University of Illinois Greek Oscars our chapter won awards for Outstanding Chapter President and Philanthropy of the Year.



Austin Okuno, President

## HOUSE LANDSCAPING DAY

### Chapter House Gets a Facelift!

On Saturday, September 30, **Rob Ebl '93** led a team of undergraduates to update and "beautify" our front yard. Rob reported that they planted Hydrangeas, Spirea, Sedum, Sumac, Smooth Blue Aster, and Black Eyed Susan for perennial blue and gold color for years to come. Thanks to Rob for all of his time and leadership in significantly improving our curb appeal!



## CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENT

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this because the chapter has set the tone for the legacy of Gamma Zeta and the future generations will move up to take the reins as leadership. True Merit is never ending and is always something that ATO members strive for every day."

"This is quite a comprehensive report, as you would imagine," said **Jack Klues '77**. "It takes a lot of editing and integration.

- The National Headquarters of ATO looks at four sections for the True Merit Award:
- Focus- this includes social service and community involvement
- Fundamentals- Involvement in class and Chapter GPA – ATO requires a minimum of a 3.0 and those who exceed that are recognized additionally.

- Ritual- This encompasses Chapter meetings and how the brothers communicate with one another.
- Friendship- ATO True Merit focuses on member behavior, integration and orientation of new members, and interaction with Alumni Board of Trustees. In addition, it also looks at what the Chapter does to become closer friends with one another collectively – there are about 70 ATO Brothers on the Illinois Campus.

Klues added this report is about 100 pages and takes most of the school year.

It is his job to edit the work, which this year was done by Sean Ewert, the



Jack Klues

undergraduate coordinator. Sean collects, facilitates, and edits the write-ups needed to complete the report and Klues serves as editor.

"For the undergrads, this is a really good benchmark for the Chapter House," said Klues. "As a wise person once said, it's more about the journey than the destination. A lot of the older guys know ATO as the premier Fraternity at Illinois. But then the

Chapter went through some tough times due to membership review and actions of predecessors – this recognition of True Merit is a validation of success.

Everyone wished for the good old days and now they're back. This day and age, being a successful Fraternity requires good kids, with good supervision."