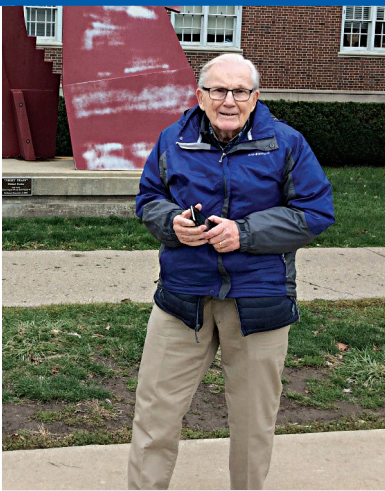


RETURN TO CAMPUS



Thanks Bob!

Bob Voge '50 visits the "Night Train" sculpture at Homecoming which he and his wife Ruth donated to the University in 2002.

CHAPTER ETERNAL



Our Thoughts are with the Friends and Family of Our Brother

Major General Edward Giller '41 has passed away. He was a true American hero who lived his life to the very fullest.

You are encouraged to read the linked obituary... just an amazing man and life... the definition of the Greatest Generation. He will be missed. View his full obituary at: <https://www.frenchfunerals.com/notices/Edward-GillerJr>



Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity

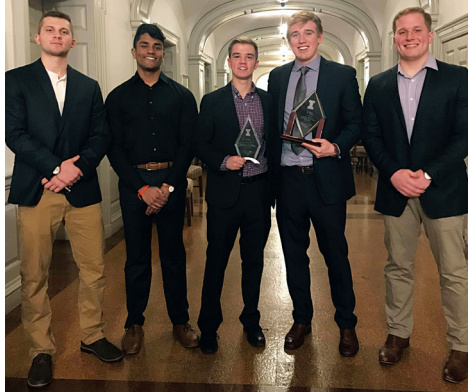
University of Illinois

www.atoillinois.com

April 2018

HARD WORK PAYING OFF

Taus recognized at Greek Oscars



From left to right **Matt Lach '21**, **Vishnoo Vivekananthan '20**, **Nathan Meier '20**, **Dan Reinke '19**, **Sean O'Malley '20**

Greek Oscars is an award ceremony to recognize outstanding chapters and individuals within the University of Illinois fraternity and sorority community, including council recognition. Hosted by the Black Greek, Interfraternity, Panhellenic and United Greek

Councils, this ceremony recognizes the previous calendar year's achievements.

For the second year in a row, ATO has taken home significant honors. Last year it was IFC Philanthropy of the Year and Austin Okuno was named the Outstanding Chapter President. This year our chapter won Philanthropy of the Year for the second year in a row and was named the IFC Division I Fraternity Chapter of the Year for the University of Illinois.

These awards are particularly significant because they represent respect from our peer fraternities and sororities on campus and the process is overseen by the U of I Division of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. This is a nice complement to the True Merit Cup which Gamma Zeta received last summer as recognition of excellence from Alpha Tau Omega National.

Great work guys!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Gamma Zeta Making a Difference

The year was started off by the Feed My Starving Children MobilePack event, that provided around 100,000 meals to impoverished people in a single day. In February, Gamma Zeta held a blood drive at the local YMCA, which was spearheaded by Philanthropy Chairs Andre Frontier and Colin Fischer. On top of that, both Andre and Colin have been organizing trips to the Hope Center, a food pantry that is regularly visited by members to help serve the Champaign/Urbana community. Coming up in April there is an annual hockey game scheduled to be played between ATΩ, Sigma Chi, Pike, and SAE, with a portion of ticket sale proceeds being donated to a cancer charity. Big things are being planned for next fall too, with the house setting its sights on having an even larger Feed My Starving Children turnout, as well as creating even more charity events.



Photo: Andre Frontier at the Blood Drive

ACADEMICS

Hard Work Paying off for Undergrads



Colin Fischer

Grade reports were taken from every house on campus this last fall semester, and out of forty-one recognized fraternities on campus Gamma Zeta placed 6th, with an overall average house GPA of 3.24. The solid grades can definitely be attributed to the hard work done in the study room, as well as the overall competitive climate of the house as a whole. Members often cite wanting to compete with other ATOs as their reason for going the extra mile on their schoolwork. This attitude can clearly be seen paying off.

Colin Fischer led the new members by earning a perfect 4.0 GPA, making great progress towards a spot on a Bronze Tablet. His spectacular work made a huge contribution to the house earning its high spot on the rankings list. Any new member who did have low grades is going to be met with by several members of the executive team and given a plan of action for how to fix their grades. This will involve an older member in the same field taking them under their wing and supporting them while they adjust to college classes. With these measures taken, grades are expected to get even better.

ALUMNI NEWS

Catch up with Your Gamma Zeta Brothers



ATO GZ Holiday Happy Hour December in Chicago

Background Left – Robert Hutchison '85 and John Cochrane '82

Foreground – Michael Barrett '80, Larry Eppley '82, Jason Aguiar '09, Pat Erfort '09

Background Right – Jack Klues '77, Greg Ewert '82

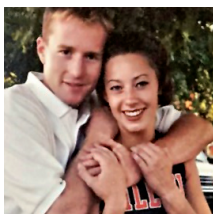


Dane Luhrsen '77 caught up with **Brendan and Goldy** in February in Houston and they're doing great... still working together in Houston after nearly 40 years.



Spring '18 ATO Gamma Zeta Networking Lunch

Nathan Meier '20, Matt Menna '93, Phil Coover '05, Johnny Athans '20, Vish Vivekananthan '20, Moe Aqueel '20 at March 9 ATO Spring Networking lunch in Chicago. **Matt Menna '93** was our featured guest and **Phil Coover '05** was our moderator as over 90 Gamma Zetas gathered at Matt Menna's very cool new restaurant, Porter Kitchen and Deck in Chicago. Matt shared his experiences with Sterling Bay as they lead some of the hottest and most interesting developments in Chicago and the country including the Fulton Market corridor, Lincoln Yards (Sterling Bay's proposal to bring as many as 50,000 Amazon headquarters workers to Chicago), Victory Ranch in Utah and The Four Corners Tavern Group.



Pictured here are **Shawn** and his wife **Kate Mayernick '02** in the Fall of 1999 at an Illini football game. They were featured in a Valentine's Day 2018 article in the Daily Illini about romances started at the U of I.



'80's Phrogues Gather in Florida

Kneeling - **Barry Booth**, **Gary Frantzen**, **Michael Barrett**, **Dan Touhy**

Standing - **John Perconti**, **Jim Cavoto**, **Tom Reisel**, **Mike Sullivan**, **Jack Arnold**, **Cary McMillan**, **John Aymond**, **Ron Douglas**



'70's Taus Move to Texas

Back in 1977/78 several Gamma Zetas moved down to Texas to get rich on oil and real estate after graduation including **Bob Lundstedt '78**, **John Detweiler '78**, **Brendan Lynch '78**, **Billy Gold '77**, **Brian Kueker '78** and **Stan Nord '77**. Nearly all are still there. They sent out this picture as a Christmas card in about 1978 or '79.

CHAIRMAN LETTER



It's OUR Time

if not self-centered economic priorities. All of this, understandably, has made University Administrations extremely tough on their Greek student populations. Regulations and bureaucratic procedure only seems to increase every semester.

We also cannot overlook the very real competitive threat of growing student housing options, private and University owned. And effective last year, Champaign County began to reassess fraternity/ sorority properties at a higher tax rate with result being increases of over 100% in many cases on those close to Green Street and "Greek Park". While this issue has yet to reach 1101 W Pennsylvania Ave., the immediate threat is real.

Last but not least, the GZ physical plant is showing its age. Despite nearly \$1 million dollars expended to renovate most all of its common areas thanks to the donations of a handful of generous Alums, its core infrastructure (ie Plumbing, HVAC, Roof) has never been seriously addressed since original construction.

The most recently graduated and current undergrad members are doing their share. They have made dramatic changes to the House culture. Changes all of us can be proud. They are recruiting more diverse and qualified young men to GZ and have increased membership by 50% since our formal Review in 2016. Their Fall '17 GPA ranked a record #6 among all fraternities.

Their commitment to philanthropy and community service has received national recognition. New Member Education has been revised and consolidated in keeping with a ATO National HQ ritual and expectations. Participation and winning performance on the athletic fields is returning. Respect for House property is growing at a like pace with their respect for one another.

Last Summer, the Gamma Zeta returned to coveted "True Merit" form being awarded our 22nd trophy from National HQ after a 10-year hiatus. I am confident we can repeat as winners in 2018.

As I said in my introduction, however, the Undergrads need us.

It's our time! It's time for all our alumni to step up and actively reengage with the Chapter membership in terms of contributing financial support, joining the BOT/ House Corp committees, or even playing a bigger role in our Mentoring practice.

In the short term, our continued progress depends on you. In longer term, I believe our viability as a fraternity is at stake.

Let us hear from you today.

L and R,

Jack

Jack M Klues
Gamma Zeta '77
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Alumni brethren, the undergraduate membership that walks the halls of our beloved Gamma Zeta Chapter House need us, more than ever, to join them in our shared push toward making Alpha Tau Omega the premiere fraternity on the campus of the University of Illinois once again.

Today's fraternity experience exists in an environment many of us, fortunately, did not have to face during our formative years as active members.

Because of poor management and even poorer decision making, a few fraternities on other campuses recently have been found guilty of dangerous hazing practices, alcohol abuse, and frequent reports of sexual abuse. Chapter Houses risk becoming nothing more than Social Clubs where recruitment standards are lax and often driven by wrong minded

CONGRATULATIONS

Gamma Zetas Doing Great Things!



Paul Lundstedt '82 on his \$360 million sale of the Apple flagship store and Mag Mile office building on Michigan Avenue in Chicago



Gary Burnett '77 named Executive Director of the Heart of the Rockies Initiative in Montana



Robb Rugg '79 was named to Hacker Industries, Inc. Board of Directors



Greg Hart '10 is running for DuPage County Board and was endorsed by The Daily Herald. Congrats and good luck Greg!

CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

New Members Get Involved

There is a huge emphasis in the house on joining organizations around campus. New members are required to join a Registered Student Organization (RSO) to initiate, and as a result ATO has members in organizations all over campus, ranging from engineering to conservation.

'20 **Kyle O'Malley** is a co-founder of Personal Finance Club, which regularly hosts guests speaking on the current economic climate. With more actives rising through the ranks of their RSOs it's becoming easier and easier for new members to get seriously involved.



A Personal Finance Club meeting in action

EVENT RECAP

Homecoming 2017 Witnesses Return of 20 True Merit Cups

Neal Currie '19, Jack Klues '77, Hayden Chromy '19, Dan Reinke '19, Sean Ewert '19, Chris Klos '18, Ozzy Salazar '18, Matt Stemper '18, Michael Abadir '18, Quinn Gaughan '19, Bob Vogle '50 and Dane Luhrsen '77 at scholarship award ceremony at Homecoming



Over \$20,000 in scholarships were awarded to current undergrads by alumni **Jack Klues**

'77, **Dane Luhrsen '77** and **Bob Vogle '50**. Thanks to **Dave Seiler '77** who leads the

alumni Scholarship Committee who selects the recipients.

Also note the True Merit Cups in the trophy case. Generous donations of alumni replaced all 20 of the past cups which have

been lost/stolen over the years.

GAMMA ZETA MID-70'S 40TH REUNION

Taverns, Tailgates, and a Broken Ankle!

The Gamma Zeta 76's, 77's and 78's celebrated their 40-year reunion in Chicago in November with a reception at **Matt Menna's '93** very cool new Brickhouse Tavern outside of Wrigley, dinner hosted by **Tom "T Squared" Tunney '77** at his popular Ann Sather's restaurant on Belmont and at a tailgate in Grange Grove before the Illini football game. Out of towners stayed at **Dave Krug's '95** beautiful Guesthouse Hotel on north Clark.



Don "DA" Armstrong '77 and **Kevin "Fudd" Rudd '78** at the Brickhouse Tavern in Chicago



Tom "T Squared" Tunney '77 cooking up a storm in the Ann Sather kitchen



Cary "CMac" McMillan '80 and **Brian "Drawers" Rawers '78** in skybox



Terry "Kono" Hanusa '78, **Tom "TSully" Sullivan '78** and **RJ Tolliver '78** at Ann Sather's



Joe "C Dog" Cihlar '78 and son, current undergrad, **Billy Cihlar '20** at Grange Grove

A broken ankle (happened during the Georgia 60+ slam dunk contest finals) is not stopping **Dr. Seth Berl '78** from leading his annual medical mission trip to Honduras in March. Seth has been doing this for over 25 years. **Dr. Tom Sullivan '78** a dentist has joined him for the last several years. Great work guys!!



NEW MEMBERS



The 2021 Pledge Class

Welcome to the Brotherhood!

There was a total of twenty-eight initiates in the fall of 2017, and the spring class currently has eight very promising pledges. Chris Baldwin, the alumni relations chair, is working very hard to ensure that every chapter member has an alumni mentor. His plans are for the mentee and mentor to relate on a personal level and use that connection to benefit not only the mentee, but the chapter itself. New members are also set to participate in mock interviews with older members who have similar career paths, giving them a taste of the work world.

SPORTS

GZ Maintains Dominance

Keeping in line with tradition, Gamma Zeta still has a dominant hold on athletics on campus. Earlier this year ATΩ won the "All Sports" tournament, considered the most important intramural tournament on campus. To win ATO beat all the other fraternities on campus in a combination of basketball, softball, and several other sports. Gamma Zeta also won the "Greeks at Bat" softball tournament, conquering both sides of the bracket so that the championship was ATΩ 18s against ATΩ 20s. Top 3 finishes were also grabbed in KKG volleyball, Gphi kickball, and Theta Basketball. Beyond that we also have several active members apart

of club teams on campus. Sam Rasnic is currently playing for the school Lacrosse team, holding the executive position of recruitment chair. All in all, athletics are still valued just as much as ever.



Sam Rasnic on the field