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*The Men Who Keep Our
Fraternity Strong*

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ON THE WEB

Real Estate For Breakfast

Phil Coover '04 Launches "Real Estate for Breakfast" Podcast

Check out this very cool new podcast "Real Estate for Breakfast" hosted by **Phil Coover '04**. His guest for episodes two and three is **Rob Walters '04** another Gamma Zeta. Likely interviews with other Gamma Zetas in Real Estate to come!! Great work guys!

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/real-estate-for-breakfast>



Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity

University of Illinois

www.atoillinois.com

March 2017

ALUMNI GATHER IN CHICAGO

By **Dane Luhrsen '77**

On Friday, March 3, over 90 Gamma Zetas and guests gathered at the University Club in Chicago to learn about

Private Equity, touch base with some old Gamma Zeta friends and make some new ones. An expert panel of **Patrick Jensen '98** – Partner, Prairie Capital, **Jeff Piper '00** – Managing Director, Svoboda Capital, **Dan Barry '84** – Senior Managing Director, Antares Capital, **Dave Lundstedt '75** – former CEO, Armored AutoGroup Inc. and our moderator, **Michael Barrett '80** – PE Practice Director, Patina Solutions shared their experiences and the huge opportunities in this space. Highlights from the lunch also included:

Dane Luhrsen, '77 along with several of our PE brothers announced a great opportunity to earn and share significant finder's fees (\$150K and more) with our Chapter's Capital fund by providing introductions to companies meeting specific targeted profiles. Much more to come on this through our eNewsletter.

Dan Passarella '13 who leads our alumni mentor program announced a need for additional mentor volunteers. Contact Dan



directly at **847-989-6403** or dpassarella16@gmail.com if you'd be willing to serve as a mentor for one of our undergrads or

have any questions about this important and valuable program.

Dane also recognized **Steven Ogden '13** for winning last fall's Last Tau Standing NFL Survivor Pool which generated nearly \$1,000 for our alumni communications fund. He also announced the upcoming Tau Madness NCAA Tournament Pool. Watch your email for details.

Jack Klues '77 thanked ATO National for their support over the last several years as our chapter has stepped up to some significant challenges. **Terry Turman**, CEO of the ATO Foundation and several ATO Foundation Board Members were in attendance. Jack also announced a need for additional alumni Board of Trustee volunteers. Please reach out to Jack directly at **847-736-6013** or kluesjack@yahoo.com if you'd be willing to serve on the BOT. We need your help!

MISCELLANEOUS ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations Are In Order!

Congrats to **Scott Voris '92!** His company, Kelmscott Communications, a marketing and production company in Aurora, Ill., was honored with the prestigious "Innovator of the Year" Award presented by the Fox Valley Entrepreneurship Center at the nonprofit's first-ever event called ELEVATE.

Congrats to **Scott '00** and **Ryan '02 McNaughton** for being recognized as "Best Under 40" by Suburban Life Media on November 17 at an event at the Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge.

Congrats to **Dane Luhrsen '77** for winning the Illinois/Wisconsin "Rider of the Year" for the 60-64 age group for earning the most points accumulated over 35 cycling time trials, road races and criteriums in 2016!



Congrats to Fighting Illini Golf Coach **Mike Small '88** for being named the Golf Coaches Association's 2016 Hall of Fame Class!

MEMBER UPDATES

Gamma Zetas Share Their News!

Harold Collins '58

"My wife of 53 years, Marilyn, passed away five years ago and I remarried on November 26, 2016, a day after my 80th birthday to a beautiful 80-year-old widow named Friedel Thibault. Friedel was the head makeup artist for Estee Lauder at Macy's State Street store for 35 years. We still live in my Flossmoor, IL home and split our time between there, my downtown condo, and Scottsdale, AZ home. I'm still practicing law with my two sons Mike and John at 8 S. Michigan Avenue in Chicago. My memoir "A Widower's Journey In Faith, Love, and Good Humor," was published in 2014 and has done quite well.

Any Brothers faced with the loss of their sweetheart can get it online or at any book store, or contact me to share the joy of a wonderful life that started with my ATO experiences at Gamma Zeta."

Blake Ahitow '04

"I am a 2004 Gamma Zeta and former treasurer while **Jeff Scolaro '04** was President. Each year we get the 04 and 04.5's together at my Christmas Party in December held at **Patrick Olson's '04** house."



Blake Ahitow '04 Christmas Party

Bruce Rucks '01

"I moved to San Diego in August 2016 and was recently promoted to partner at Deloitte and Touche. I stay in close contact with my 01.50 pledge class. I see them frequently, either when I am in Chicago or via an annual trip we do to my lake home in Wisconsin. The photo was captured at last year's trip. Nearly all of us in the photo are University of Illinois ATOs from the 01.50 pledge class (one is an ATO from Indiana and one is an "honorary" pledge Brother). My favorite memories are probably not appropriate for this, or any other publication!"

Jerald B. Russ (Init. 1947)

"I still keep in touch with **Don Scherwat**



Bruce Rucks '01 and 01.50 class

(**Init. 1945**) and **Bill Schueler (Init. 1947)**. Last year, Don and I chased tarpon on the Florida West Coast. The overriding impression of my recollection is the top quality, generous character of guys striding into adulthood.

I recently celebrated my 90th birthday with five of our six children, their spouses and our grandchildren and great grandchildren. Marge, my wife, still puts up with me as we approach our 68th anniversary. We exercise in the gym about five times a week."

Have some news of your own to share?

Submit your update today to alumninews@affinityconnection.com, for possible inclusion in future Gamma Zeta publications! We're always glad to hear from our Brothers.

NETWORKING

Gamma Zetas Celebrate Holidays in Chicago

For over 25 years Gamma Zetas have been gathering in Chicago for our annual buy a brother a beer, post work "Holiday Happy Hour." This tradition was started by the class of '80 but has spread to all Gamma Zetas over the years. It's a great and easy opportunity to get classes together while at the same time crossing over to connect with Gamma Zetas from other eras.

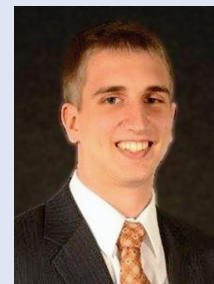
About sixty Gamma Zetas passed through **Matt Menna's '93** very cool Federales, one of the hottest new spots in the city, on December 15, 2016 for this past year's event.



Bill Brennan and Jack Klues at 2016 ATO Holiday Happy Hour

Thanks to Matt for hosting and showing us a great time.

Gamma Zeta Survivor Pool Winner



Congrats to **Steven Ogden '13**, winner of the Fall 2016 Last Tau Standing NFL Survivor Pool! He'll get his name on the trophy which

we display at the Chapter House and a cool \$850 winner's share of the pool. He beat out **Eddie McElroy '78** in a close finish that went right up to the 17th week of the season and **Frank Kulze '75** who got knocked out in week 14. Thanks to all who participated as we raised another \$850 or so for the annual fund!

ATO Offers Mentoring Program To Undergraduates

You probably remember your days as a young undergraduate at the University of Illinois. You probably also remember the job search that ensued, shortly after graduation. These days, getting a good job can be quite taxing. But at Gamma Zeta, the young Brothers have an upper hand. They're taking part in a mentor program which is getting great results and our Brothers are securing great jobs.

"It has been great to meet the undergrads through this program and through the interview practice sessions that we've done," said **William Brennan '78**. "I've been fortunate to meet some outstanding individuals who are driven, focused, and think big. When I look around at the success of our Alumni, I know they possessed the same qualities. Chicago has an outstanding ATO Alumni network and working with the mentoring program has been a great way for me to stay connected and to meet some great guys currently in the house."

It wasn't always the program that is now being heralded as more than just an opportunity to get assistance finding an internship and a job out of college. For junior **Christian Klos**, it led him to a career-shadowing opportunity at Rolling Stone magazine to now being on the verge of a project management internship with DigitasLBI in downtown Chicago.

A junior in the college of media and advertising, with a double minor in Spanish and Public Relations, Klos is no stranger to maintaining motivation and hard work.

"I'm a third generation American from Poland," said Klos. "I grew up in a very Polish household. I came to campus and wasn't really sure I wanted to join Greek life but I fell in love with Gamma Zeta, the house- it was a winning attitude. I quickly found myself Head Recruitment Chair. When I was a sophomore, we realized this mentor program was there, but not all the way. We decided to sit down last year as a team team- myself, **Joe Benkowski**, and **John Baccaro**. We wanted to get people motivate and build the program back from the beginning.

The group of Gamma Zeta Brothers

immediately saw success and the positive impact the program had and decided to run with it. They realized quickly how many Alumni wanted to be involved as well.

Last year, Klos was blessed with a career shadowing opportunity that his mentor, **Brian Szejka '06**, helped him secure- Rolling Stone Magazine.

This year, he's paired up with **Jack Klues '77** and is very close to securing an internship with DigitasLBI.



"Jack has been there every step of the way," said the junior. He told me to do my research and tell him where I want to work. I secured a final interview with Digitas and am currently waiting- but I feel great about it.

It's helped me grow into a future media pro, this is more than just an internship. It's experience, guidance, and it helps you in your field.

Asked if being a mentor to an Undergraduate Brother and paying his experience forward is something he'd like to do after graduation, the junior answers with an unequivocal yes.

"Absolutely, said Klos. "It's so nice because it's a hard jump from being a full-time college student to a full-time professional. A lot of guys are scared, and this helps with that. The house has given me a lot, I love this House, I love this Chapter and I would 100% come back and do this after graduation.

For **Sam Selby**, the impact of his mentor, none other than the afore-mentioned Jack Klues, was a tremendous assistance in his quest for full-time employment.

"I became involved with the program as

a freshman," he said. "We were matched up with former ATOs who work in a field similar to our respective majors. I was a student looking to utilize my mentor in the hopes to gain knowledge in my field as well as acquire internships/jobs.

My first mentor was not necessarily involved in the same field as me, causing us to lose contact, Selby revealed. However, he began speaking with Klues on a consistent basis, which to him was extremely helpful.

Klues put Sam in contact with prominent companies in the Chicagoland area.

He credits landing his post-graduation job to Klues.

"My biggest success story was landing a job post-graduation before many of my pledge Brothers," said Selby. "I utilized Jack's and other people's contacts, which was a great way to get my foot in the door. I followed up and was able to schedule interviews in several different companies. I was lucky enough to find out recently that I received a full-time offer from DigitasLBI."

"I hope this program creates a pipeline for undergraduates to have the chance to acquire internships/jobs at a much faster pace," said Selby. "If undergraduates can get hired by Alumni on a consistent basis as well, that would be great. I would definitely pay this experience forward by mentoring a young undergraduate Brother once I have a few years under my belt in my industry."

"With regularity, we had active members reaching out to our Alumni Board (namely Jack and Dane) asking about available job opportunities," said **Dan Passarella**, an alumnus who coordinates the mentor program. "While they did their best to help out, having only one or two people trying to find jobs for 100+ undergrads was just not sustainable. Given all of the interest in learning about job opportunities within the ATO network we felt it would be a great idea to build a structured system that brought more of our alumni to the table to help out. We also wanted to stress that looking for a job doesn't start your junior/senior year, which is why we assign mentors to freshmen to start guiding them in the right direction, and

-continued on page 4

ALUMNI NEWS

—continued from page 3

also serve as a resource for any questions the undergrad may have as they navigate through college.

I serve as the program lead on the alumni side where I work with my undergrad counterpart to gather information on our new members related to their studies and career interests. We also work to maintain an “inventory” of alumni mentors who have volunteered to take part in the program – this includes recruiting new mentors on a yearly basis. When the time comes each year we work to pair up undergrads with alumni who align with their focus of study or career desires in an attempt to create the most beneficial relationship possible.

The program has definitely been gaining steam in recent years as each year there seems to be more buy in on the undergrad side—I believe this has been driven by the results we’ve seen. We have had several mentors assist their mentee in finding an internship or full time job position, which is fantastic. While that is certainly the ideal case we’ve also had a growing number of mentees establish relationships with mentors and leverage them for daily advice related to other aspects of school such as good student groups to get involved with, how to navigate life at ATO and campus in general, and tips on how to expand your network to name a few.

We have had a handful of guys get internships or jobs from the program which is fantastic, but I think my favorite story so far happened recently. We had an alumni go down to the house and spend some time with the undergrads – one of the topics that came up was the mentor program. When he returned back to the city he reached out to me directly and expressed how highly the

undergrads spoke of the program and the value they felt they were getting – this led to him asking to be involved in the program as well. It’s great to hear that our undergrads appreciate the value the program offers, and equally so to see how willing our alumni base is to contribute to its success.

Every year we have mentor pairings that work out, and then we have those that do not for one reason or another. I want to see the program get to a state where each and every undergrad is paired with a mentor and finds value in that relationship. If we can get to that point then I believe there are opportunities to host events or competitions that involve mentor pairings and give them a chance to get to know one another better, but also get to know other mentors as well. It’s an outlet that I believe can turn into a very effective way of helping our undergrads build their professional networks before they ever step foot off campus which is extremely valuable as they seek to start their careers.”

A sophomore at Illinois and ATO, **Neal Currie '19** has also had success with the program for about a year now.

“I’m majoring in Consumer Economics and Finance with career ambitions toward Marketing and Sales,” said Currie. “My grandfather, **Howard Landon '57**, was a Gamma Zeta so Alpha Tau Omega is in my blood! The Gamma Zeta mentorship program was started about 2-3 years ago and we have been working to expand it since! I became the undergraduate director of the program starting this calendar year.

As the Career Development and Alumni Relations Chair for the house, I am the initial link between active members and alumni mentors in the program, and I keep the program running smooth for all

undergraduate brothers.

Results from the program have ranged depending on mentor as well as mentee. However, many undergraduate brothers in the program have gained valuable career insight into the different options that they have ahead of them after graduation, as well as resume critique, interview tips, and even internship opportunities.

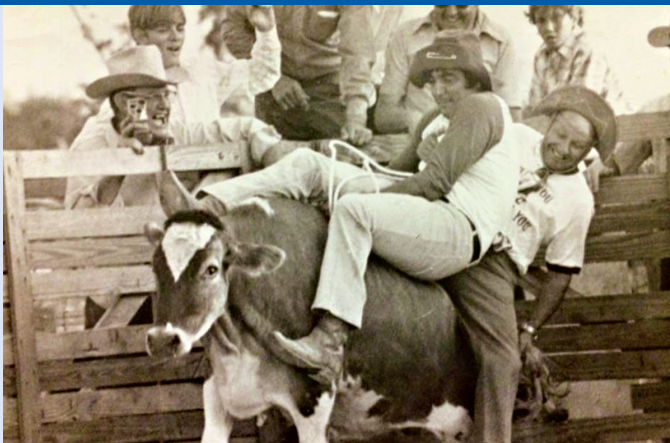
I think any success story is a big one and any insight from experience that a mentor can share is invaluable to younger brothers. Chris Klos has seen the most success from the program so far with networking and job opportunities from his mentor, but as we progress this program, this will ideally become the average for mentees.

My hope is for the program to keep growing as older members, who went through the mentorship program and are now working good jobs, began to give back to the active members in the same way that they were helped by their mentor, or even in ways that they had wish their mentor helped them. Also, I’d love to see the program go even further to start organizing networking events between mentors and active members.

Being so involved in the program right now, I absolutely look forward to becoming a mentor for an undergrad brother when the time comes, and I’m sure a lot of other active members feel the same way.”

We’re always looking to add additional potential mentors to our roster. If you’d be willing to serve as a mentor, please send an email to **Dan Passarella '13** at dpassarella16@gmail.com or give him a call at 847-989-6403 and let him know of your interest. Please include your grad year, undergraduate and grad school majors and current career role.

FLASHBACK PHOTO



Terry Miller '68 Former Detroit Lion and St. Louis Cardinal Linebacker

We received this photo submission from Brother **John Stacey '68**. He writes: “This photo of **Terry Miller '68** is circa '71. I thought some of the bros might get a kick out of it.”

ATO Brothers Shine as Young Leaders



Kurt Gavin



Sam Rasnic

Kurt Gavin (Varsity sports) interview:

1. What sport are you a part of? What position?

I am a freshman and I am a part of the Illini football team. I play center and guard on the offensive line.

2. How much time do you put into the sport a week/year?

There is a lot of time put in to perfect my craft. It's a year around time commitment including practice, meetings, lifting, managing my diet, and doing rehab on my body in order to perform at 100% everyday on the field. Football is a sport where the time you put in on and off the field shows. It's not a sport where you can just show up and perform.

3. What is your favorite aspect of being on a varsity sport? What is your least favorite aspect?

My favorite aspect of being on a varsity sport is the brotherhood that is developed with the people you confront and get through all the adversity, and know you guys are going through the same thing. My least favorite aspect is sometimes not being able to eat the foods that I enjoy because they are not the healthiest for me.

4. Has being on a varsity sport positively affected other aspects of your life? (Maybe social, school-wise)

Yes, being on a varsity sport has positively affected the other aspects of my life. For example, it has taught me how to juggle multiple responsibilities, and having a great work ethic while I do it. Football has also really benefited socially because I have met so many

great people that I will be able to be friends with for a lifetime.

5. How has the sport made you a better ATO?

Football has made me a better ATO because it brought me to have leadership qualities. I am able to hold others and myself to be accountable, but also to help people personally get through tough obstacles. Football has also made me more confident in myself and to leave no doubts when making decisions which is why it has made me a better ATO, and I'm very grateful for it.

6. What is your major?

I am currently undecided but I am working to get in the College of Media to major in Advertising.

Sam Rasnic Interview (Varsity Sports)

1. What sport are you a part of? What position?

University of Illinois Men's Lacrosse, Defense

2. How much time do you put into the sport a week/year?

20 Hours

3. What is your favorite aspect of being on a varsity sport? What is your least favorite aspect?

The competitiveness and being able to travel. The time commitment taken away from studies.

4. Has being on a varsity sport positively affected other aspects of your life? (Maybe social, school-wise)

Being on a varsity sport has enabled me to spend my horizons meeting more people and traveling to new places.

5. How has the sport made you a better ATO?

Varsity sports have made me realize how lucky I am to be in ATO. Talking to members of other houses on campus has allowed me to see that our house has the greatest brotherhood on campus and other houses do not even stack up in this category. This has made me a better member of ATO because I now care more for our great brotherhood.



The '20s post an intramural basketball win.

The house as a whole is now 7-2.

From Left to Right: Bobby Austin, Kyle O'Malley, Christian Talbot, David Skrodzki, Sean O'Malley, Matt Maturski and Ikjot Wahi.

UNDERGRAD SPOTLIGHT

Making Gamma Zeta Proud!

Matt Kleinhans On Leadership Position

What is your background?

I am in my second year at University of Illinois majoring in Information Systems/ Information Technology also pursuing a minor in Computer Science. I am from Elmhurst, Illinois where I grew up closely with my two older brothers, **RJ '15** and **Joe** (both of which are Gamma Zeta ATO alumni.)

What is your leadership position on campus?

I am currently an engagement partner in OTCR Consulting, University of Illinois' premier student-run consulting group. OTCR works with real world clients, ranging from start-ups to Fortune 500 companies, to assist with business and tech strategy problems. As an engagement partner, I have risen through the ranks of consultant and project manager to lead a "pillar" of the firm: Alumni relations. As the engagement partner of alumni relations, I

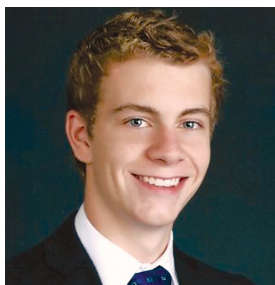
work hard to maintain our vast and diverse alumni network to better the firm as well as keep our alumni in the loop.

What have you learned through your leadership positions?

OTCR has given me many tools I previously lacked. From the business lingo you pick up when sourcing projects to the managerial skills you hone while coordinating a project team working to an end deliverable, OTCR has given me the opportunity to constantly improve myself.

How has this position affected your role as an ATO?

My leadership position in OTCR Consulting gave me the drive to be involved in the Alpha



Tau Omega executive team. I hope to constantly improve the Gamma Zeta chapter and use the leadership skills I have picked up in other organizations to deliver a clear vision to our chapter and execute that vision as PR chair.

Has the position helped in other aspects of your life?

The position of engagement partner was a key talking point throughout my internship interview processes for the upcoming summer. I am fortunate enough to be working at Deloitte Consulting this summer in the Tax Management Consulting program and attribute the majority of landing that position to the leadership skills I have learned in ATO and OTCR.

HOMECOMING REUNION

2018 Homecoming Reunion For '67s, '68s (50th) and '69s

See You There!

By **Jim Frakes '68**

Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the 1968 graduating class ('65 initiates) of Gamma Zeta of Alpha Tau Omega. Those brothers, plus members of the graduating classes of 1967 and 1969, will reunite on Homecoming Weekend (Oct 12-13, 2018). **John "Mort" Mulliken '68**, **Jim Frakes '68**, and **John "Stace" Stacey '68** have organized this reunion with substantial help from **John "Hound" Helfrich '69**, **David "Burlap" Wright '69**, **Duane "Gulliver" Teske '68** and **Robert "Bo" Batchelder '67**. Over 30 brothers already have indicated their intent to attend. It is anticipated that 40-45 brothers, many with guests, will be present.

Planned activities thus far include:

- Friday afternoon, Oct 12: Golf at Champaign Country Club or a campus tour.
- Friday evening: Individual pledge class dinners.
- Saturday morning, Oct 13: Brunch at Chapter House.
- Saturday afternoon: Football game vs Purdue, most likely an 11 a.m. game.
- Saturday post-game: Cocktail party at Chapter House.



- Saturday evening: Social hour, group dinner, and light entertainment for all three classes.

A block of hotel rooms has already been secured. For any further information, contact Jim (jamesf@uic.edu) or Mort (mort3636@hotmail.com).



There's always something happening at Gamma Zeta!

Check us out at www.atoillinois.com