



# GAMMA GAB

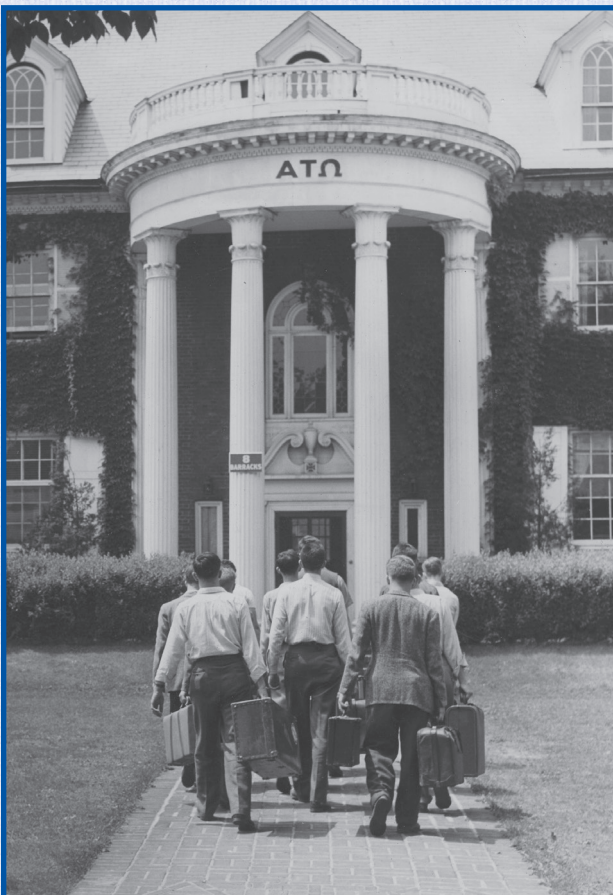
ALPHA TAU OMEGA • PENN STATE UNIVERSITY • SPRING 2014

## HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*Be a Part of the Next 100 Years*



*The newly built chapter house in 1928.*



*Gentlemen moving into the 1940s barracks at the ATΩ chapter house.*

We're 100 years old. After all the preparation and celebration of our 100th anniversary, I am struck by three things. First, what 100 years really means. In 1914, Henry Ford introduced the assembly line, Babe Ruth played in his first professional game, and Gamma Omega was founded. Second, how the bonds of brotherhood endure. Lastly, how well we are represented by the current undergraduates.

It was a great weekend, with representation from almost all the eras; we missed the 1960s guys. **Richard Kuegler '89** and **John Frain '89** had a great weekend of events planned and they pulled them off without a hitch. More than 100 of our alumni returned to State College for all or part of the weekend.

We were able to hear about the undergraduates' recent accomplishments and get to know them a little. They were gracious hosts and we all left thinking what a great legacy they are to us old guys. We were able to properly thank Rich Kuegler for his non-stop efforts the last eight years; never has there been a better example of a Life Loyal Tau.

Those in attendance Saturday night saw something many of us thought was not possible. **Dann Cornali '73** was speechless as we gave him a Lifetime True Merit Award. Your alumni leadership can all trace ourselves back to Dann and what he taught us as undergraduates. All alumni owe Dann a debt of gratitude, and it was great to recognize him for his service. In closing, I'm going to borrow from the speech by **Aric Wagner '90**: Every time we walk through that door at 321, we are handed a towel. Sometimes we take our seat, tuck it into our chin and wait to be served. These often are the times when we need our brothers the most. When we are struggling with family issues, school issues, or are unsure of our place in the world. As alumni, we have learned these can include when we must say goodbye to our brothers. Other times, we wrap it around our waist and we get ready to serve our brothers. Often as alumni we forget that Gamma Omega still needs us to play both roles. Our time of serving doesn't end when we move out of 321.

The next 100 years has begun. We have significant challenges in front of us. We need to take care of the lovely lady that so many of us have called home. The house is in desperate need of renovation and support. But as great as that challenge may be, the opportunities in front of us are unlimited. We have three True Merit cups in a row (and a fourth would not be a surprise). We have more than 100 active undergraduate brothers. There has never been an era when Gamma Omega had more influence on campus. It is now time for us, the alumni, to take stock of what we learned in that house. Take stock of what those relationships have meant to us over the years. Take stock of how different our lives would be if there had been no Gamma Omega.

When we ask you to stand and be counted, will you make sure the next 100 years produce men of character, men of unlimited achievement, and men of substance? Will you be counted on to continue the legacy that is the men of Gamma Omega? I for one will stand and wrap the towel around my waist and be counted on to serve. I for one will see that legacy of Gamma Omega men continues on its upward march. I know that there will be many behind me. We can accomplish anything; we are the men of Gamma Omega.

VTL,

**Damion Spahr '92**

Corporation Board President

[dspahr@reynoldsconstruction.com](mailto:dspahr@reynoldsconstruction.com)

## MORE THAN 150 TAUS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF GAMMA OMEGA

Every Tau will tell you that 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of ATΩ at Penn State. From our chapter's founding on February 6, 1914, to 2014, Gamma Omega has established a reputation for excellence in the Penn State community and within Alpha Tau Omega nationally. We have six True Merit awards, countless campus leadership positions, achievements in scholarship, Penn State lettermen, and an active alumni base full of corporate executives, business professionals, and entrepreneurs. Gamma Omega is certainly unique. For us as lifelong members it means much, much more. We all call 321 East Fairmount home and we know that the lessons we learned and the experiences we enjoyed there have shaped our lives. Our families, our friends, our career ambitions, and our future potential all tie to our membership in this great fraternity.

State College warmly (except for the weather) welcomed more than 100 alumni who joined with the 108 active undergraduates to celebrate the centennial of our beloved fraternity. The weekend celebration kicked off with a reception at the house catered by Donna Ray (our great house cook) and coordinated by **John Frain '88**. During the reception, Taus of all generations recalled fond memories with "old" friends and shared stories, even some that were actually true, with their brothers from other eras. Many of us were able to see the many new additions to the trophy case and visit our old rooms while visiting the house.

Unfortunately, Saturday's poor weather meant cancellation of our golf outing and forced the rescheduling of other day-time events. As saddened as Hud, Smitty, Vince, and others were to hear that the Den is now closed on Saturday afternoons, news of Skellar's opening was received with great delight. I am certain that the proprietor of the Skellar and other downtown business owners were just as delighted! There was also time for a few self-directed tours both on and off campus, shopping trips to favorite PSU clothing stores, and even a few quick visits to the Penn State Sub Shop for cheesesteaks and to the diner for their world-famous stickies.

Saturday night's main event at the Nittany Lion Inn was attended by more than 150 Taus. Most everyone cleaned up pretty well in preparation for our cocktail reception and dinner. We were honored by the attendance of **Terry Turman, Oklahoma State '94**, CEO of ATΩ Foundation, and Dr. Roy Baker, director of Fraternity/Sorority Life at Penn State. Terry talked about the successful history of Gamma Omega within our national fraternity and also provided a great summary of the growth and presence of the ATΩ Foundation. Through the Foundation, Gamma Omega has funded two separate undergraduate scholarships named for Gamma Omega leaders, **George Greer '54** and **Lou Gomlick '55**. Each was on hand to present the scholarship awards to their first-ever recipients. **Asad Ahmed '14** was presented with the George Greer scholarship,

while the Lou Gomlick award went to outgoing President **Tommy Todd '14**. While these scholarships are funded, additional donations are still needed to fully endow these annual undergraduate awards. Please consider making your tax-deductible donation to the ATΩ Foundation at [www.ATO.org/ATOfoundation](http://www.ATO.org/ATOfoundation) today.

After all attendees enjoyed a delicious prime rib buffet, Dr. Baker offered great insight into the current environment at Penn State and in the State College community. Since arriving from Syracuse University almost eight years ago, Dr. Baker has been a strong proponent of the overall Greek community and of ATΩ in particular. **George Greer '54** was the next speaker, addressing our gathering to share his thoughts on brotherhood and leadership. The evidence of ATΩ brotherhood is strong; the presence of many generations of Taus and the history of achievement speak for itself. He summarized with this thought: "Leaders are not born, they are made out of the opportunities available to them." I think we can all agree and will recall fondly that ATΩ provided us with many great opportunities to take charge and to develop into leaders.

**Aric Wagner '90**, ex-president of the Board of Trustees, capped off the evening with several awards. He surprised **Rich Kuegler '89** with an award for leadership and service in recognition of Rich's work as longtime vice president of the board and for his ongoing efforts to coordinate alumni events and communications. Aric then presented a much-deserved Lifetime Leadership award to **Dann Cornali '73**. Dann has been ever-present at Gamma Omega. A longtime member of the Alumni Board, Dann served as president during a pivotal time in our chapter's history and led us through recolonization in the mid-1990s. Those of us who know Dann have come to understand how to "deal from a position of strength" in everything we do. Thank you for your more than 40 years of service, dedication, and friendship.

Our celebration was highlighted by the return of our chapter's charter to the house. Refounding fathers (led again by Aric Wagner) presented a restored copy of this cherished artifact to the current undergraduate leadership. After reciting our ATΩ creed, the evening's "official" festivities culminated as they should, with a rousing ATΩ cheer. Led by founding father and sometimes distinguished alumnus **Chris "Chicken" DeVol '89**, we belted out a spirited rendition that would make any Alpha Sig quake. Let's raise a glass to our next 100 years!

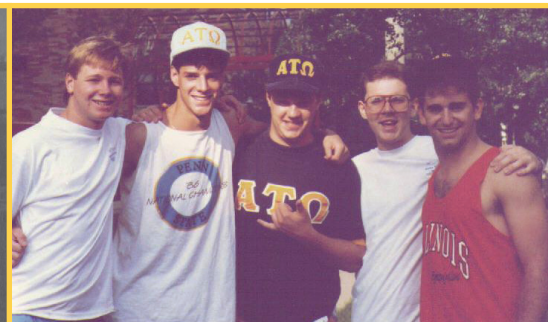
Thank you to Frainer for all his work and effort in putting on a great weekend of events. Thank you also to Aric for his continued leadership and service. Great work, fellas!



*The 1950s pledge class in front of the chapter house.*



*The Gamma Omega singing group in 1951.*



*Brothers on a spring break road trip in 1988.*

## Drawn to ATΩ Brotherhood for Life

### Spotlight on Dann Cornali '72

When **Dann Cornali '72** joined Alpha Tau Omega as a freshman, he was drawn to the brotherhood because of how it stood out from other fraternities at Penn State. “It sounds like a cliché, but I was drawn to the people. The brotherhood at that time and the pledges from our class were unlike all other fraternities, to say the least! We were diverse yet common in many ways.”

As he began to form relationships with his brothers, Dann created long-lasting friendships he has learned to appreciate and be thankful for over the years. “I didn’t know it until years later, but the core value of friendship is so important. You can read about it and think you understand it, but not until you need it and in turn can give it do you truly grasp its meaning.” The memories he made with his brothers during his undergraduate years still stick with Dann, including “everything from the outrageous fun to the private late-night talks wondering just what the hell the future held.”

Since graduating from Penn State with a bachelor of science in finance, Dann has stayed active with Gamma Omega. While he served as chapter president during his undergraduate years, he has also served as house corporation president for two separate tenures as an alumnus. He has taken the leadership lessons he learned as a Gamma Omega and used them to create a successful, busy career. Dann is director of human resources for HRI Inc., a large heavy-highway construction firm that does business in multiple states and is located in Happy Valley.

He has also learned many lessons from his business career and wants to share them with



*Dann Cornali '73 accepts the Lifetime True Merit Award at the 100th celebration.*



*Dann Cornali '73 was taken by surprise, as he was not told of his award until the night of the celebration.*

ATΩ undergraduates and younger alumni. “Work to live, don’t live to work. Establish your life/career plans, but don’t fear failure, change, or difficult times. They are all part of the process and make you stronger. Learn to move vertically and horizontally. Respect others and their opinions. It’s not necessary to agree, but grant them respect. Accept your strengths and weaknesses and whenever possible, always deal from the former. Lastly, if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, take others with you.”

Dann stays in touch with a few of his Gamma Omega brothers, including **Lou Mastrini '71**, **Vince Colistra '72**, and **Van Arvin '71**, whom he speaks to regularly on the phone and in person. On special occasions he sees **Tom Diehl '71** and other brothers. Dann feels it is important for all alumni to reconnect and stay in touch with the chapter because they can “offer help if needed, be a sounding board, or play devil’s advocate. Alumni can ensure we don’t ever relive some of our past and provide yet unknown young men the same or similar opportunities we were all presented with.”

Dann and his wife, Alicia, live just outside of State College with their youngest son, Dmitri. His other son, Nic, lives in Georgia and his daughter, Lisa, lives in California. Free time doesn’t come often as Dann is busy with family, volunteer work, charities, coaching youth sports, and playing golf. Dann very much enjoyed the 100th weekend and greatly appreciated seeing and spending time with friends and brothers. He can be contacted by e-mail at [dcornali@hriinc.com](mailto:dcornali@hriinc.com) or at his office at (814) 278-6805.



*Alumni at the 100th anniversary celebration.*



*More than 150 Tau joined in celebration of the chapter’s 100th anniversary.*





(From left) Carl Delacato '16, Asad Ahmed '15, Mike Stavrakos '16, and Pete Goodman '16 with the new recreation of the original Gamma Omega Charter.

## BROTHERS CONTINUE TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

### FIRST PLACE IN GREEK SING

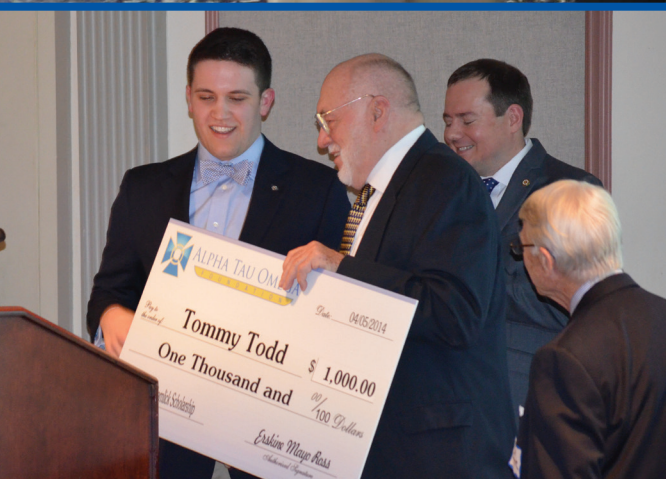
Throughout the fall 2013 semester, brothers and new members of Gamma Omega spent hours preparing for Greek Sing with the sisters of Pi Beta Phi and brothers of Sigma Chi. Greek Sing Chairmen **Connor McGeough '16**, **Jake Wertz '16**, and I organized practices throughout the semester totaling over 75 hours of focused group preparation. Nearly 25 brothers took part in learning multiple songs and dances with **Brian Hoyson '16** as the male lead. In December of 2013, Alpha Tau Omega, Pi Beta Phi, and Sigma Chi took the stage to perform *Annie*, and we were awarded first place. The prize included a trophy, which sits proudly in our trophy case, and a donation of \$800 to a charity of our choice.

### TAUS BREAK THON RECORD

Since October, the brothers of Gamma Omega and the sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha have worked tirelessly to raise money for the Four Diamonds Fund through Penn State's IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon. We stood on street corners, went door-to-door soliciting donations, sent letters to family and friends, and held local fundraisers to raise money to battle pediatric cancer. As is the case every year, we were able to count on generous contributions from alumni, and for that we thank you. The fundraising season culminated in the 46-hour, no-sitting, no-sleeping dance marathon, at which brothers **Tony Giannetta '14**, **Jake Brown '14**, **Patrick Lawler '14**, **Tony Rosado '14**, and **Gabriel Revnew '15** proudly represented the Gamma Omega Chapter. Our work and your generosity allowed us to raise over \$375,000, the highest amount ever raised for THON by a Greek organization, contributing to THON's overall total of \$13.3 million this year.

### CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

This spring semester, active brothers and alumni were fortunate to celebrate a landmark occasion for the Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega—the 100th anniversary of our chapter's founding. Alumni returned to Happy Valley on April 4 and 5 to reunite with one another, meet the undergraduate members, and celebrate the longevity of our chapter. During the final event of the weekend, a reception at



Michael Stavrakos '16 accepts an award on behalf of Tommy Todd '14 for the Lou Gomlick Worthy Master Scholarship at the 100th celebration.



Asad Ahmed '14 is awarded the George Greer Leadership Scholarship at the event.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President <b>Michael Stavrakos '16</b> <i>Wayne, Pa.</i> mls5867@psu.edu	Risk Manager <b>Brandon Pankiewicz '16</b> <i>Belle Vernon, Pa.</i> bxp5099@psu.edu	Recruitment Chairman <b>Michael Stavrakos '16</b> <i>Wayne, Pa.</i> mls5867@psu.edu
Vice President <b>Asad Ahmed '15</b> <i>Wayne, Pa.</i> aia5278@psu.edu	Historian <b>Josh Godoshian '16</b> <i>Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich.</i> jcg5347@psu.edu	Social Chairman <b>Eric Luttmann '16</b> <i>Fort Washington, Pa.</i> ewl5165@psu.edu
Treasurer <b>Pete Goodman '16</b> <i>Ridgewood, N.J.</i> ptg5041@psu.edu	Secretary <b>Carl Delacato '16</b> <i>Lafayette Hill, Pa.</i> chd5067@psu.edu	New Member Education Chairman <b>Brandon Pankiewicz '16</b> <i>Belle Vernon, Pa.</i> bxp5099@psu.edu

# ΑΤΩ

the Nittany Lion Inn, we heard from multiple alumni who reminded us all what it means to be a brother of Alpha Tau Omega, and the chapter was presented with a new handmade charter to replace the original that went missing many years ago. We are all very grateful to have alumni whose contributions and dedication allow the chapter to continue to flourish.

### GAMMA OMEGA PRIDE

We, as a chapter, have many things to be proud of this semester. Our brothers continue to excel in the classroom, keeping the chapter GPA north of a 3.0, and participate in extracurricular activities, including award-winning acapella groups, the IFC executive board, and Schreyer Honors College Student Council. In addition to brothers individually growing as men through academic success and extracurricular involvement, Gamma Omega continues to grow as a chapter. At the end of last fall we initiated the 22 new members, bringing our chapter to a total of 106 active brothers. This spring we continued our tradition of recruiting men of character and ambition, and as a result we have 16 undergraduates being educated in the values of our fraternity and learning what it truly means to be a Tau.

### WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

We are all proud to carry on the tradition of excellence inherent in membership of Alpha Tau Omega, and we thank you all for your contributions to the chapter over the last 100 years as both active members and as alumni. Our fraternity would not be where we are today if not for the contributions and guidance of the alumni, and for that I thank you. If you ever find yourself in State College, feel free, as always, to stop by 321 East Fairmount. Thank you all for a great 100 years, and may our next 100 be just as successful.



Love and Respect,  
**Michael Stavrakos '16**  
 Chapter President  
 mls5867@psu.edu

## Welcome, New Members

- Brendan Balent**  
*Richboro, Pa.*
- Vincent DeAngelis**  
*Stroudsburg, Pa.*
- Colin DeLarso**  
*Flourtown, Pa.*
- Bryan Kozlowski**  
*Malvern, Pa.*
- Dan Lamb**  
*Berwyn, Pa.*
- Stefanos Papadopoulos**  
*Broomall, Pa.*
- Jake Rex**  
*Whitehall, Pa.*
- Michael Rothermel**  
*Hershey, Pa.*
- Christian Sheetz**  
*Doylestown, Pa.*
- Ben Sparango**  
*Radnor, Pa.*
- Suman Tadavarthy**  
*Mechanicsburg, Pa.*
- Jeff Truitte**  
*Lynchburg, Va.*
- Grant Williams**  
*Fairfield, Conn.*
- Ethan Winigrad**  
*Wayne, Pa.*
- Jon Winter**  
*Whitehall, Pa.*
- Scott Zelle**  
*Broomall, Pa.*

CELEBRATING  
100 YEARS OF  
GAMMA  
OMEGA — DETAILS  
AND MORE  
PHOTOS INSIDE!



*Gamma Omegas and  
their dates at the 1951 formal.*



*Brothers at the 2002 Founders' Day event.*



*Alumni and guests at this year's  
Founders' Day celebration.*



*Alumni celebrate 100 years of Gamma Omega  
at this year's Founders' Day event.*



# GAMMA GAB

ATΩ Gamma Omega  
c/o Damion Spahr  
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**ATTENTION:** *This newsletter is intended for alumni and pvariants. If your son is currently attending Penn State University, he will receive a copy at the Chapter House. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.*



## JOIN US ONLINE

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