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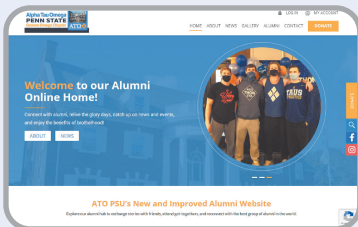
Dan Faust, State College, PA  
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Jonathan Briante, Wayne, PA

**House Chef and Manager**

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## ON THE WEB

### Stay connected to Gamma Omega



[atopennstate.com](http://atopennstate.com)

Latest Gamma Omega news and events, photo archives and directory

[www.facebook.com/atopsu/](https://www.facebook.com/atopsu/)



Social media community for Gamma Omega

[www.instagram.com/atopennstate](https://www.instagram.com/atopennstate/)



Keep up with House philanthropy, community and fun



# Gamma Gab

Gamma Omega Chapter

of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity at Penn State



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

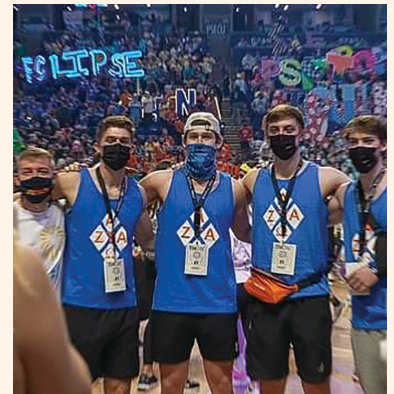
Spring 2022

## CONGRATULATIONS ATO - ZTA

### #1 Student Fundraising Group for THON 2022!

Thank you to our Amazing THON Chairs, Committee Members, Volunteers, Alumni and all our Donors for a record breaking year! We are...so Thankful for all of you!

To our THON families...you continue to inspire us everyday! No one fights cancer alone!



## 4 DIAMONDS KID ROBBIE SCHWEITZER '20 BEAT CANCER AND JOINED ATO

**Robby Schweitzer '20** was diagnosed with leukemia at two years old. He says that THON, and ATO made a huge impact on both him and his family while he was in treatment, eventually leading him to join ATO and reconnect with fellow 4 Diamonds cancer survivor **Tucker Haas '23**.

“The first time we walked into Rec Hall (where THON was held before moving to the Bryce Jordan Center in 2007), my family and I were amazed,” he said. “We didn’t understand why all of these students were giving up their time to fight childhood cancer with us. As the years went on, our amazement grew. We felt like a part of a great big family, especially with our organization (Alpha Tau Omega and Zeta Tau Alpha).

He says that over the years, he got to know the brothers and sisters at ATO and ZTA. “They would travel to see me and my family on random weekends that they could have been partying or studying,” he says.

He says that deciding on Penn State was based on one very simple idea: Community. “From coming here throughout my childhood and visiting friends while they were in college I realized that everyone that goes to Penn State is a giant family, and I love that feeling of community and all the good that Penn State does.”

*Robby Schweitzer, THON 2004*



**Robby Schweitzer '20 (left) and Tucker Haas '23 (right) began their friendship when they were both fighting childhood cancer, and both adopted by ATO and ZTA for THON.**

**Choosing ATO:** Schweitzer says that he pledged to ATO because he wanted to give back to the organization that did so much for him over the years. “The brothers that were in ATO when I was a kid are the reason that I am here today,” he says. “My goal while joining ATO was to be able to take a leadership position in the fundraising efforts for THON. I knew I wanted to have a group of friends for life and I knew ATO would be able to give me both of the things I was looking for.”

This proved true—he and fellow cancer survivor Tucker Haas have known each other almost their entire lives, and cemented their friendship and brotherhood even more when they both joined ATO. During his senior year and Haas’ freshman year, they were able to participate in THON together. “We’re the fortunate ones,” he said in an interview.

He says that giving back through THON, first as a general member in ATO/ZTA’s alternative fundraising committee, then as head THON chair and dancer in 2020 was very important to him. “It was my way to show everyone that their efforts are not going unnoticed and are actually having an effect on the world. Seeing me survive what I went through and make it all the way to be in a position to raise money and give back. THON will always be important to me but now that I am an adult my role will be more donating what I can and trying to get my friends and acquaintances to be aware and donate as well,” he says.

The upside of fraternities and sororities: “As much as fraternities get talked about in a bad way, I think we can all agree that they do some amazing things through THON and other philanthropy opportunities,” Schweitzer says. “The upside of fraternities is to shape these kids into better people, and by having these charities and events that they can give back and give their time to really helps them see the struggles of other people.”



## FRIENDS THAT HAVE LASTED LIFETIMES, ALL THANKS TO ALPHA TAU OMEGA

When we talk about ATO, some of the first things that may come to mind are the connections that were made through your years as an undergrad. We recently reached out to our alumni brothers asking what those connections have meant to them over the years, read on to see what **Scott Luttmann** had to say.

*Did you meet your lifetime friend through Alpha Tau Omega, and what experiences brought you together?*

Yes! **Ben Lucier**, **Pat Winch**, and I rushed together and immediately bonded over music. Throughout school, we grew as musicians through playing together in the chapter house basement and in our house senior year. Ben and Pat now play together often, and when I'm in town from the west coast, we jam and even play small shows.



*Here's a photo of us from our show in DC this past summer! (Pat on guitar, Ben on keys/singing, Scott on drums).*

*What does this friendship mean to you?*

This friendship means a lot to us because connecting on passions has allowed us to become closer and also share a creative mindset. We always say that it's a miracle we all joined the same fraternity and are able to share so many of the same interests.

## TAU OF THE YEAR

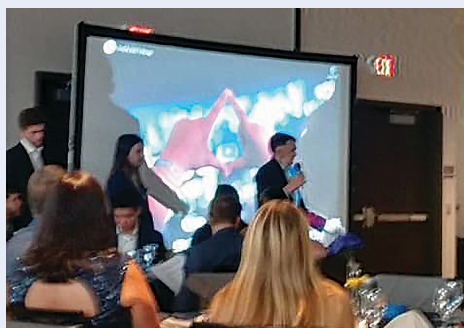


*Marc Gildersleeve*

Towards the end of 2021, he Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega elected **Marc Gildersleeve** to be awarded **Tau of the Year**. Congratulations Marc! Your hard work and dedication to this chapter will always be appreciated.

## UNDERGRADUATE UPDATES

### 3rd Annual THON Gala



Congratulations to our THON Gala Chairs, THON Family Relation Chairs, and our Overall THON Chairs for a great 3rd Annual THON Gala held on December 5th, 2021 at the Hyatt State College Ballroom.

We have six amazing THON Families which we support. Each year we invite our 6 THON Families, members of both ATO and ZTA, Alumni, and Parents of the organization to enjoy food, learn about the cause, and participate in raffles and silent auctions.



## LIFELONG FRIENDS

### The older we get, the more we need our friends— and the harder it is to keep them

*When you're in middle age, you start to realize how very much you need your friends.* After decades of relentless striving — kids, house, career, spouse — we find ourselves coming up for breath at some point in these middle decades. And what remains? With any luck, our friends.

A recent *Atlantic Monthly* article (do yourself a favor and read it at [tinyurl.com/lifelongfriends](http://tinyurl.com/lifelongfriends)), says that according to the Stanford Center on Longevity, those of us over 40 have aged out of the friendship-collecting business, which tends to peak in the tumbleweed stage of life, and move into the friendship-enjoying business, luxuriating in the relationships that survived as we put down roots.

The problem? Those friendships are awfully hard-won. Life's significant upheavals and changes can prove too much for many friendships to withstand. As years go by, some of the dearest people in your life have gently faded away.

But these bonds with friends are more than an extra in

your life story — they are the story. Over and over, we hear stories of how Alpha Tau Omega friends drove overnight to be in weddings, wept together at funerals, cheered at the news of new babies, toasted promotions, and gathered together in adversity. In a nutshell: the friendships we gained — and still have — with fraternity brothers is exquisitely rare in today's world.

Author Jennifer Senior says, "Practically everyone who studies friendship says this in some form or another: What makes friendship so fragile is also exactly what makes it so special. You have to continually opt in. That you choose it is what gives it its value."

Our Gamma Omega friendships have seen us through so much, but don't take them for granted. Take a minute to text or call your roommate, or intramural teammate, and tell them that you are thinking of them. Our friendships have fueled these decades since graduation... Let's keep it going.

