



GAMMA OMEGA



A PUBLICATION OF THE GAMMA OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA TAU OMEGA

FALL 2008

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IMPROVEMENTS LEAD THE WAY TO ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

- Unbreakable Glass and Electronic Key Cards Installed to Improve House Safety
- Gamma Omega Shows Leadership with Academics, Philanthropy, and Service
- Plans Underway for Founders' Day 95th Anniversary in 2009

It is with great pride and excitement that I write to our alumni and friends. Our beloved Gamma Omega is doing well and the future looks very bright.

Chapter House Receives Updates to Improve Safety

Since the first of the year we have made many improvements to the house. Our latest update was paving the hill that leads out of our parking lot. Anyone who traversed "ATΩ canyon" in anything smaller than an SUV knows that an improvement was overdue. We have also improved the security of the house, upgrading the French doors that open to the patio with unbreakable glass and installing electronic card key locks for the front and rear doors. This will help us control access to the house during the summer and holidays. A glass artisan also came in and repaired the leaded window above the door and installed a protective film.

where we will update you on our future plans. I hope you and your significant others will be able to attend.

A Special Thank-You to Our Supportive Alumni

I would like to thank all of the alumni who I have called upon to help with projects or work with the board. None of you have turned me down and that is a testament to our dedication to and love of Gamma Omega. It also has made an impression on our undergraduate chapter. I have no doubt they'll graduate and become part of the greatest alumni group at Penn State.



Fraternally,
Aric N. Wagner '90
House Corporation Board President
(540) 582-2823

Gamma Omega Leads the Way on Campus

The chapter has continued to lead the way on campus. They are near the top of all fraternities in academics and finished first in fundraising for IFC Dance Marathon. They hosted Greek Life Director Roy Baker for dinner and have invited other campus leaders to the house. They received many awards at Congress this summer but fell short on True Merit. The only thing that prevented them from winning was past debt with the National Fraternity, which none of them were members at the time it incurred. They have taken the necessary steps to retire that debt and, I am sure, will return to True Merit status next year. Lastly, members of the chapter met with alumni, led by **Hank Bradenburg '79**, and painted the first floor of the house. Thank you to all who helped with that project.

2009 Founders' Day to Include Golf Tournament and Election

We planned Founders' Day 2009 for May 29-31. There will be a golf outing and we have reserved a block of rooms at the Nittany Lion Inn. Our next election will be held during those dates for the Board of Directors,



Many safety improvements were made to the chapter house this year. The French doors that open to the patio were upgraded with unbreakable glass, an electronic card key lock was installed on the front and rear doors, and a glass artisan repaired the leaded window above the door and installed a protective film. After our safety inspections, we received zero points this year by meeting all fraternity and State College borough requirements.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FOUNDERS' DAY 95TH
ANNIVERSARY
May 29-31, 2009

Celebrating Decades of Success and Brotherhood

Friday, May 29

Cocktail Party at Chapter House

Saturday, May 30

Golf Tournament at Penn State Golf Course
Dinner and Cocktail Party

Sunday, May 31

Board Meeting

A block of rooms is reserved at the Penn Stater/Nittany Lion Inn. Ask for the ATΩ block when making your reservation.

Prizes and special recognition will be awarded for the decade with the largest attendance. If you have any questions or would like to assist in coordinating the events, please contact **Rich Kuegler '89** at kuegler1@comcast.net or at (302) 521-7450.



CHAPTER SUCCESSES

- Gamma Omega Maintains Strong Academic Standing with 3.15 G.P.A.
- Members and Zeta Tau Alpha Partners Raise \$234,000 for THON

The fall semester is underway and Gamma Omega is engaged in another exciting year. There are 45 active members and three new members were welcomed in the spring. Thirty of these members are occupying the house and were experiencing the new rental agreements that were executed by all residents. Rental payments converted to the University's Bursar Billing program, which improved payment options for undergraduates and streamlines the receivables process for Gamma Omega.

The chapter earned a 3.15 G.P.A. this spring, an improvement from last year's 3.02 G.P.A., placing Gamma Omega 13 of 47 fraternities and above the all-men's 3.07. Partnered with Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority, the chapter raised nearly \$234,000 for THON, marking the 13th straight year as top fundraiser for this event. THON generated over \$6.6 million for the Four Diamonds Fund in 2008.

FROM NEW BOILER TO WIRELESS INTERNET

GAMMA OMEGA GOES TO GREAT MEASURES TO IMPROVE HOUSE

This year Gamma Omega embarked on several critical infrastructure projects to maintain our beloved house. Here is a summary of improvements we have made:

- Boiler replacement was completed in January 2008 to upgrade the aging heating system; total cost exceeded \$50,000.
- The State College borough requirements mandated the installation of a fire-suppression sprinkler system, which has forced ATΩ to readdress our long-term view on housing. A sprinkler system was installed in fall 2007 to be in compliance; total cost exceeded \$85,000.
- A new card key security system was installed for approximately \$5,000-\$6,000.
- Our wireless Internet connection was upgraded to improve service.
- A room on every floor was transformed into a study room with built-in desk space.
- The entire first floor was painted over the summer by several undergraduates led by **Rob Vuolo '10**. Thank you, **Hank Brandenburger '79**, for traveling from the Bucks County area to lead the repainting efforts.

We are initiating upgrades and maintenance to keep our house competitive with other available housing options and to improve the safety for our active members. After our safety inspections, we received zero points this year by meeting all fraternity and borough requirements for the second year in a row.

Founders' Day Road Show

ALUMNI TRAVEL THE U.S. AND REUNITE WITH FELLOW BROTHERS

Founders' Day was taken to a local level this year, with Taus coordinating events across the country. Many thanks to the alumni who coordinated the events this summer; we appreciate your support and help. Thank you also to those who participated in the various events. We hope you enjoyed these opportunities to reconnect with friends and make some new ones.

ENJOYING DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON, D.C.

To kick off our Road Show summer, we began in Washington, D.C., where **Matt McKelvey '92** coordinated a well-attended event at the Capitol Brewery. Over 20 Taus from several generations attended this cocktail party, setting the standard for the rest of the summer.

A COCKTAIL PARTY IN ATLANTA

In late June, we ventured to Atlanta, where **Vic Fiorese '90** and **Mark Michini '92** hosted a cocktail party at the Five Seasons Brewery. Many Taus and spouses joined us for this exciting event.

A BASEBALL GAME AT PNC PARK IN PITTSBURGH

John Kroboth '93 and other fellow "Yunzers" met at PNC Park in Pittsburgh to watch a barn-burner between the Pirates and the Rays. The game went well into the Pittsburgh night (best skyline in baseball), lasting 13 extra innings. Special thanks to **Mike Walter '90** and his family for driving the farthest distance of nearly 250 miles. Now that is loving your brothers!

A GAME OF GOLF IN PHILADELPHIA

Tom Merry '89 hosted a golf outing at the top-rated Lederach Golf Club in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. **Steve Hansen '90** led all golfers with an incredible 75, but had to withdraw after 11 holes. Better luck next year, Silver Napper!

INTERESTED IN HOSTING AN EVENT IN YOUR AREA?

If you are interested in coordinating an event in your area, please contact **Rich Kuegler '89** for a current list of local Gamma Omega alumni. There are already events planned for the fall and winter, including a December cocktail party in New York and tailgate road trips to Syracuse. Please check www.psutaus.org for a full calendar of events.



Nick Shumock '04, Mark Michini '92, Victor Fiorese '90, and John Schneider '97 were four of several brothers who met in Atlanta at the Five Seasons Brewery as part of the 2008 Founders' Day Road Show. If interested in hosting a Founders' Day Road show event near you, contact Rich Kuegler '89 via e-mail at kuegler1@comcast.net.



THANK YOU, LOYAL ALUMNI

The future of Alpha Tau Omega at Penn State University depends on the contributions of our loyal alumni to support the chapter. Thank you for your dedication to Gamma Omega. In the spring of 2008, 43 contributions were made totaling \$5,462. Your gifts helped us to make improvements to the house, including the installation of a fire-suppression sprinkler system, a card key security system, and wireless Internet. The Gamma Omega House Association thanks you for your support—it truly makes a difference.

AZURE AND GOLD CLUB

(\$5,000 and up)

FAIRMONT AVENUE CLUB

(\$1,000 to \$4,999)

*George C. Greer '54
Louis W. Gomlick '57
*Jeffery L. Leininger '67
*Scott W. Smith '89
*Evan Pierce '90
J. Michael Walter '90

GAMMA OMEGA CLUB

(\$500 to \$999)

*George T. Geiser '42
*Chuck E. Arnold '48
*Robert J. Steele '58
David B. McKee '59
Edward A. Lentz '60
*Edward E. Altemus '66
Jeffrey M. Lawrence '67
Chris O'Connor '83
Richard Goldbeck '89
Jason W. Cave '92
James E. Powel '92
Richard A. Fenati '97

LIFE LOYAL CLUB

(\$250 to \$499)

*Kenneth D. Kerwin '47
*James H. Meyer '53
Jack S. Reno '57
*Larry A. Baver '58
*Eugene R. Curry '59
William H. Surgner '61
Robert G. Neubert '64
*Thomas C. Braun '66
John D. Eisenhower '67
Douglas B. DiGiovanni '72
Dennis H. Smith '72
Thomas P. Tucker '75
James H. Buley '87
Richard P. Kuegler '89
Thomas Merry '89
Russell Troutman '90
Aric N. Wagner '90
Bryon Correll '96
Holden Farahani '00

NITTANY LION CLUB

(\$100 to \$249)

*Stephen J. Bilo '47
*William J. Cully '47
*J. Lee Everett '48
Richard R. Gillespie '50
H. Craig Jacobs '50

Carlton C. Durling '51
Sanford H. Bennett '52
Francis C. Angelo '53
Thomas M. Barrett '53
*David E. Bain '54
*Robert F. Coniff '54
*Carl B. Weiss '54
Watson K. Leese '55
James D. Berry '61
*John H. Witmer '62
*Don Dellinger '63
*T. Richard Evans '63
Wilson Pollock '63
Gordon R. Schmidt '63
Richard D. Stromfors '63
*James R. McGranahan '65
Ernest A. Smith '65
Dr. Joseph A. Cattano '66
*Benjamin Olewine '66
David C. Schmidt '68
William J. McFadden '70
Randy D. Coyle '71
*Kerry D. Huddleston '71
Louis N. Pierro '71
*Michael T. Rickert '71
Vincent J. Colistra '72
*Gregory G. Smith '72
*Richard W. Kunkle '73
Thomas C. Shaffer '73

John R. Gray '75
Jack G. Schachtman '75
Mark Biro '78
Hank Brandenberger '79
*William L. Stevick '79
*Brooks Clayville '89
Christian N. DeVol '89
*Curt Thompson '89
Wesley Ellis '90
*Christopher E. Whorral '90
Steven K. Dillow '92
Matthew B. McKelvey '92
*James R. Corbin '93
*John R. Kroboth '93
David T. Hughes '96
Gregory Souchack '99
*Matthew Strand '99
*David M. Prael '00

BROTHERHOOD CLUB

(Up to \$99)

Ronald Coleman '52
John M. Groves '52
W. Edward Frazer '53
J. David Blatchford '57
Jack L. Sadler '57
Willard H. Robb '58
*W. Robert Mitchell '61

David C. Ulmer Jr. '62
*James B. Conner '63
John S. Hershey '67
Robert K. Reitzel '67
Don R. Thompson '68
Donald A. Glendenning '69
Robert Morris '81
Bruce V. Sones '87
Mark A. Finby '88
Richard H. Rocha '88
John T. Frain '89
Timothy Straley '89
Rocky C. Torsitano '89
Eric G. Dowiak '90
Paul M. Wright '91
Joel Brous '92
James R. Fetterolf '92
Andrew P. Stimmler '93
*Sheridan Palmer '98
Bob Seitzer '98
*Matthew M. Sharrer '98
*Douglas McKenna '99
Chris Gruber '00
*Dave S. Stolzenberg '05

* Denotes donor to the spring 2008 appeal

ALUMNUS VIEWS CHANGE AS OPPORTUNITY TO GROW

Spotlight on Bradley J. Allen '75

The undergraduate experience for **Bradley J. Allen '75** was a pivotal point in his life; he said farewell to his youth and prepared himself for adulthood. "It was much more than high school or anything else. It was where I began to go forward." Being a student within a large university was one of the reasons Bradley and some of his friends decided to pledge ATΩ. "We were trying to make it smaller for ourselves by finding a group of people we could belong to."

As an undergraduate, Bradley was involved with the fraternity and rugby club. He served the chapter as treasurer and pledge coordinator. He says it isn't possible to single out one event that was life-defining for him, because both organizations did great things and provided a lot of memories. "I made friendships that have lasted over the years. I still stay in close contact with a number of people

"Without fail, everybody out there has valuable skills and qualities that they bring to the table. The trick is to figure out what those skills and qualities are and how to leverage them to the individual's advantage, as well as the group's advantage."



who were in the fraternity and still play rugby with those I played with in the '70s," he said.

Bradley graduated from Penn State with a bachelor of science degree in accounting and eventually found his way to PricewaterhouseCoopers as a certified public accountant. After working 33 years, he retired as partner. Prior to his retirement, he temporarily lived in Saudi Arabia and Tokyo to fulfill job assignments. Throughout his leadership experiences, Bradley learned that not everyone can be led, and finding an approach to keep everyone moving in the same direction is a challenge. "Without fail, everybody out there

has valuable skills and qualities that they bring to the table. The trick is to figure out what those skills and qualities are and how to leverage them to the individual's advantage, as well as the group's advantage," he said.

Bradley enjoys coaching, golfing, reading, playing tennis with his wife, Susan, and playing rugby. He plays for two rugby teams and competed in a tournament in Edinburgh, Scotland, and Lake Placid, New York, where his team won the division to reclaim their title.

JOIN US FOR CLASS REUNIONS

We invite you to visit the chapter house for class reunions or other visits to State College. To coordinate reunions with the chapter during the school year, please contact **Joe Cattano '66** via e-mail at ATO66@aol.com or **Bob Pilon '01** at psubobby01@yahoo.com. For additional questions, **Kevin Hanna '10**, current chapter alumni relations officer, can be reached at kah5142@psu.edu.

Attention Alumni with Internship Opportunities

If you know of any internship opportunities in your area or at your company, please forward information to **Rich Kuegler '89** via e-mail at kuegler1@comcast.net or by calling (302) 521-7450.

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Attention: *This newsletter is intended for Alpha Tau Omega alumni and parents. If your son is still attending Penn State, 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.*

ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

John A. Garber '30, New Hope, Pa., entered Chapter Eternal April 16, 2008, at the age of 103.

Louis H. Lotz '40, Tavares, Fla., entered Chapter Eternal June 10, 2007. He is survived by two daughters, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Steven P. Karinch '42, Lebanon, Pa., entered Chapter Eternal January 1, 2008.

Kenneth A. Wright '60, Ridgefield, Conn., entered Chapter Eternal April 29, 2008.

Charles Greskovich '64 entered Chapter Eternal July 7, 2007.

ALUMNI NEWS

Robert D. Hetrick '49 and his wife, Glenna, live in Erie, Pa., and have four children: Ann, Douglas, Barbara, and Dan.

Dennis H. Smith '72 retired in 2007 as president and CEO of the Magnatrx Corporation. He and his wife, Gail, reside in Frisco, Texas. E-mail: denhsmith@yahoo.com

Matthew M. Sharrer '98, and his wife, Angela, have a daughter, Annie, and live in New Oxford, Pa. He is a general manager for Ag Com Inc. Matthew enjoyed attending the wedding of his ATΩ brother, **Doug McKenna '99**. E-mail: msharrer@agcominc.com

Jonathan M. Briante '99 works as an account executive for Jane's Information Group in Washington, D.C. E-mail: jonathanbriante@yahoo.com

Carl Mandell '07 says "life is good after graduation." He works for Tennessee Smokies, the AA affiliate of the Cubs. He established and runs the media department. "I hope to be possibly up with the Cubs by the end of next season," he said. Carl lives in Knoxville, Tenn. E-mail: csm182@gmail.com

web sites

Gamma Omega Chapter
www.greeks.psu.edu/ifc/ato

Alumni Web Site
www.psutaus.org

Alpha Tau Omega National
www.ato.org

Penn State University
www.psu.edu