



GAMMA GAB

A PUBLICATION OF THE GAMMA OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA TAU OMEGA

SUMMER 2011

House Corporation and Undergraduates Convene to Set Goals for 2011

- *Retreat Yields Well-Rounded Objectives for Gamma Omega Chapter*
- *Undergraduates Pledge to Make Grades a Priority*
- *Alumni Involvement Is Key to Success*

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While no retreat was held among the House Corporation and undergraduates in 2010, the Gamma Omega Chapter held a retreat in 2011 on March 18 and 19 in State College. **Len Wiles '90, P. J. McGuigan '92, Bill Posey '92** and I attended on behalf of the House Corporation for an evening of socializing with the undergraduates on Friday night and a retreat on Saturday.

While setting goals was key to the retreat, the group also focused on risk management with a guest speaker to inform the undergraduates of smart practices for conduct of fraternities. We also learned about the everyday problems encountered by the undergraduates in maintaining good order and operation of the fraternity.

Several discussions focused on improving grades by providing more time for study, encouraging time management during the pledge period, and initiating discussion about group practices for grade improvement. The corporation

members suggested that setting a goal to maintain a 3.0 GPA for the chapter, including pledges, should be an ongoing practice. The undergraduates were reminded that their first commitment was to achieve good grades, which is the true purpose of attending the University.

The corporation members felt that we, too, had a duty to achieve goals. Accordingly, a commitment was made to provide improvements to the chapter house in several areas. While an overall, long-term goal is to fully renovate and possibly expand the house, an intelligent plan for short-term upgrades was developed. The plan's critical mission is that the improvements will not be lost or reworked during more extensive, future renovations. As a result, the House Corporation voted to make the following improvements this summer:

- Exterior repairs to masonry façade (Partial completion this summer)
- Exterior repairs to the slate roof

and gutter system (Full completion this summer)

- Interior renovations to the third floor bathroom (Full completion this summer)
- Planning for interior renovation to the second floor bathroom (In summer of 2012, funds permitting)

Furthermore, a list of smaller projects, to be completed by the undergraduates or with limited monetary support (and physical support) by the House Corporation, was developed. These included reinstating a pledge class project, as well as providing for some life-safety planning in conjunction with suggestions provided by our insurance carrier.

All alumni are invited to provide suggestions on potential upgrades to the house. It's imperative, though, that alumni provide financial support toward the renovation of the second floor bathroom project. Without alumni involvement, few of our goals can be achieved. Please make an effort to see the recent improvements in the house this school year and consider giving toward the completion of the exterior masonry repairs and the upcoming renovations to the second floor bathroom. You can send gifts to Gamma Omega House Association of the ATΩ Fraternity, P.O. Box 1009, State College, PA 16804.

Fraternally,
Damion Spahr '92
 House Corporation President
 (610) 334-2661
 dspahr@reynoldsconstruction.com

5th Annual Philly Area Golf Outing a Great Success

The 5th Annual Philly Area Golf Outing, held at Wyncote Golf Club in Oxford, Penn., on August 19th, was a great success. All golfers enjoyed a beautiful summer day of golf in bucolic Chester County, followed by a catered lunch and 19th Hole Happies at Clogger's Grill. This year's field was among the most competitive in memory, with several Taus displaying tour potential. Last year's winning foursome of **Chris DeVol '89, Rocky Torsitano '90, Sean Flatley '88** and **Joe Bergan '88** were unable to defend their title as the winning foursome of **Aric Wagner '90, Rich Kuegler '89, Jim "Opie" Powel '92** and **Fred "Muttonhead" Anton '92** made the most of several birdie opportunities to win Low Net. The team eagerly awaits any and all challengers for next year's event (date and location TBD). *Congratulations to the winning team and thanks to all Taus in attendance!*



Achieving Old Goals and Setting New Ones

Undergraduates' True Merit Award Win Shows Gamma Omega Pride

Winning the True Merit Award is something that is often discussed wistfully, because it has only been won a few times in Gamma Omega's recent past, despite the efforts turned in each year for events such as THON. In fact, it was in 2003, and previously only in 1999 and 2000, that Gamma Omega won the Chapter Efficiency Award, since its inception in 1969. Winning the True Merit Award is often difficult to visualize when the day-to-day issues of the house, chapter and college life are so weighty. Former chapter President **Chris Tomaselli '13** was not so wistful.

Last spring, when Chris asked me to write a letter for the chapter's submission to the national Headquarters for the True Merit Award, I was both impressed by his attitude toward pursuing the award and by the overall efforts of the chapter. Because the House Corporation is more focused on advising the undergraduates on handling issues or dealing with problems, protecting the future and providing guidance, we do not always recognize the positive aspects of the chapter, year in and year out. So, I looked back on the year's successes and shortcomings and enjoyed revisiting the accomplishments. And with that, the recommendation letter on behalf of the House Corporation was written.

In August, **Chris Tomaselli '13**, **Doug Aubrey '13**, and **Jake Arenson '13** attended the General Assembly in Indianapolis at National Headquarters. On that trip, the Gamma Omega Chapter was awarded the True Merit Award for 2011. The hard work of many has been recognized, and our undergraduates should be applauded.

With winning the True Merit Award, an ongoing goal was achieved. Further, on March 17, 2010, the undergraduates were recognized by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life at Penn State as a 2010 Chapter of Excellence. Only a small fraction of Penn State fraternities and sororities are recognized each year as chapters of excellence.

While some goals are met, we continue to strive to meet others. Specifically, the House Corporation and undergraduates have agreed that upgrades to the chapter house and, most importantly, continued improvements in grades are the subject of other goals. Reaching these goals will positively impact the recruitment process and make for a better place for alumni to visit.

On page 1, you will find information on the chapter retreat in March, where objectives were discussed with the undergraduates and attending alumni.

Please join me in my pride and congratulations for the undergraduate Gamma Omega ATΩs. Their success must be celebrated and we must continue to focus on our improved grades and improved chapter house. I invite you to provide your input, time and contributions to our undergraduates. You will really appreciate giving back when you see the achievements of ATΩ.

Fraternally,
Damion I. Spahr '92

WAGNER NAMED PENN STATE OUTSTANDING FRATERNITY ALUMNUS



During May's University Greek awards banquet, former House Corporation President **Aric Wagner '91** was presented with the Outstanding Fraternity Alumni Award by Dr. Roy Baker, director of Greek Life at Penn State. The award is presented annually to one Penn State alumnus who is actively engaged in a leadership position with his Fraternity and has demonstrated a commitment to improving his chapter and the relationship between Greek life, alumni and undergraduates.

Quick to downplay such accolades, Brother Wagner is very deserving of this award. The recent achievements and accomplishments of Gamma Omega, both by the undergraduate chapter and by the House Corporation, are direct results of his leadership, high standards and dedication to ATΩ.

Congratulations, brother, and thank you for showing us all that ATΩ truly is for a lifetime!

Rich Kuegler '90

ATΩ NATIONAL AWARDS

Chris Tomaselli '08, **Jake Arenson '08**, and **Doug Aubrey '08** represented Gamma Omega in Indianapolis on August 20th, where the chapter received:

True Merit

Top national award given to chapters

Erskine Mayo Ross IMPACT Award - National Winner

(Largest philanthropic contribution in dollars raised)

Elevate Award - National Runner Up

(Largest number of community service hours)

Excellence in Pledge Education

Excellence in Ritual

Excellence in Financial Management

Excellence in Campus Involvement & Leadership Development

Excellence in Communication

Excellence in Recruitment - Honorable Mention



CHAPTER PRIDE EMANATES THROUGH CAMPUS

- Gamma Omega Excellence Recognized
- Undergraduates Building a Tradition of Greatness

(Left) Gamma Omega ends THON 2011 on a high note, raising the most money of all Greek organizations.

Coming off a fall semester highlighted by winning first overall in Greek Sing and initiating 17 new members, the undergraduates of Gamma Omega strove to improve upon these successes during the spring semester. Combining group efforts and individual successes, the brotherhood improved our standing in a number of areas, including academics, philanthropy, and intramurals.

Starting in the fall and continuing into the spring, THON 2011 was once again a great success. For the 16th straight year, the brothers of Gamma Omega, along with the sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha, raised the most money of all Greek organizations—more than \$327,000.

Paired with Alpha Omicron Pi and Theta Chi,

we finished second in Greek Week, highlighted by second place in the Red Bull Chariot Race. The brotherhood's dedication and participation carried the triad to the strong finish.

During the annual Greek awards ceremony, the Gamma Omega Chapter was named a Chapter of Excellence by the Inter-Fraternity Council and received the top award for outstanding philanthropic contributions. These really go to show the strides we have made as a brotherhood and how the effort has most definitely paid off.

In addition to the new members initiated last fall, spring recruitment added four new members to Gamma Omega. **Brian Drach, Eric Peterson, Matt Searles, and Avery Weisfeld**

officially became the newest brothers of Alpha Tau Omega in April.

This past year was certainly another good one for our chapter as we continued to prove why we are one of the most successful and closest brotherhoods on campus. With such a large group of guys and the great recruitment plans we have in place we certainly see this tradition building and expanding. As always, thank you for your support and I encourage you to visit the chapter house.

Love and Respect,
Chris Tomaselli '13
Worthy Master
(718) 499-7700
cqt5030@psu.edu

ATΩ 2011 Founders' Day a Success Despite Rain

On April 15-17, the Gamma Omega Chapter held a Founders' Day event, which was re-scheduled to coincide with Penn State's Blue-White Game Weekend. Unfortunately, the Taus had no control over the weather. On Friday evening, several Tau alumni stopped by the house to greet the undergraduates and enjoy hors d'oeuvres. Several regular visiting alumni, including **Jim Powell '92, Chris DeVol '89, John Frain '89, and Damion Spahr '92** were seen but a few other notable alumni were also present. **Corey Cavada '91** and **Ara Malkhassian '89** provided those attending with a special treat of seeing old friends. Corey is featured in the article on page 5, and Ara owns a specialty car storage, service and detailing business in Houston, Texas. He was able to turn his life-long passion of high-performance cars into a career.



On Saturday, despite torrential rains and wind, many Taus spent hours at the Founders' Day tailgate, enjoying good food and the company of friends. While it seemed as though there would be only a few stragglers braving the weather at first, many friends and alumni ended up stopping by, making the most of the opportunity to spend time together again at Penn State. Special thanks to **John Frain '89** for his efforts to plan and coordinate the event. Mark your calendars for April 2012, when ATΩ Gamma

Omega will hold the next Founders' Day event. And hope for better weather!

(Left) Gamma Omega alumni gather for the rainy Founders' Day event in April.



THANK YOU, LOYAL ALUMNI, FOR SUPPORTING GAMMA OMEGA

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. The following are contributors since the fall of 2006, listed by graduation year, in their life-to-date cumulative giving level. The Gamma Omega House Corporation thanks you for your support—it truly makes a difference.

If an error has been made in recording the amount of your gift, or if we have mistakenly omitted your gift, we sincerely apologize. If a correction to your giving record is needed, please send it to Gamma Omega House Corporation of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity.

AZURE AND GOLD CLUB

(\$5,000 and above)

George C. Greer '54
Evan Pierce '90

FAIRMONT AVENUE CLUB

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

George T. Geiser '42
Kenneth D. Kerwin '47
Chester E. Wingert '47
Chuck E. Arnold Jr. '48
J. L. Everett III '48
Sanford H. Bennett Jr. '52
Francis C. Angelo '53
James H. Meyer '53
Louis W. Gomlick '57
Larry A. Baver '58
Robert J. Steele '58
Carl B. Weiss Ph.D. '58
Eugene R. Curry Jr. '59
David B. McKee '59
William H. Surgner '61
Don Dellinger Jr. '63
Wilson Pollock Jr. '63
Robert G. Neubert '64
James R. McGranahan '65
Edward E. Altemus '66
Benjamin Olewine IV '66
John D. Eisenhower '67
Jeffrey M. Lawrence '67
Jeffery L. Leininger '67
Donald A. Glendenning '69
Kerry D. Huddleston '71
Dennis H. Smith '72
Thomas P. Tucker Jr. '75
Mark Biro '78
James Massung '79
Robert Morris '81
Chris O'Connor '83
Christian N. DeVol '89
Richard P. Kuegler '89
Scott W. Smith '89

Ken Tomasso '89
Russell Troutman '90
J. M. Walter '90
Christopher E. Whorral '90
Jason W. Cave '92
James E. Powel '92
Richard A. Fenati '97
Holden Farahani '00

GAMMA OMEGA CLUB

(\$500 to \$999)

William J. Cully '47
Richard R. Gillespie '50
Carlton C. Durling '51
Ronald Coleman '52
William H. Griffith '52
John M. Groves '52
William E. Frazer Jr. '53
Paul T. Stefanik Jr. '53
David E. Bain '54
Watson K. Leese '55
Jack S. Reno '57
Edward A. Lentz '60
James D. Berry III '61
W. R. Mitchell '61
John H. Witmer '62
Malcolm J. Borthwick '63
James B. Conner '63
T. R. Evans '63
Ernest A. Smith '65
Thomas C. Braun '66
Robert K. Reitzel '67
David C. Schmidt '68
Don R. Thompson '68
William J. McFadden '70
Joseph A. Cattano '71
Louis N. Pierro Jr. '71
Michael T. Rickert '71
Douglas B. DiGiovanni '72
Thomas C. Shaffer '73
John R. Gray '75
Jack G. Schachtman '75
Tom Frasso '81
James H. Buley '87

Bruce V. Sones '87
Mark A. Finby '88
Brooks Clayville '89
Richard Goldbeck '89
Timothy Straley '89
Eric G. Dowiak '90
Stephen L. Hansen '90
Keith D. Mekenney '90
Aric N. Wagner '90
Joel Brous '92
James R. Corbin '93
Robert F. Hoffman '93
Andrew P. Stimmler '93
Michael Malia '94
Matthew M. Sharrer '98

LIFE LOYAL CLUB

(\$250 to \$499)

H. C. Jacobs '50
Wilbert G. Lundgren '52
James D. Blatchford '57
Willard H. Robb '58
David J. C. Ulmer Jr. '62
Richard D. Stromfors '63
Randolph C. Ryder Jr. '66
John S. Hershey '67
William J. Kunkle III '71
Vincent J. Colistra '72
Gregory G. Smith '72
Mark E. Haglund '73
Richard W. Kunkle '73
Kim Rhodaback '77
Hank Brandenberger '79
Albert V. Anderson '83
Richard H. Rocha '88
John T. Frain '89
Thomas Merry '89
Rocky C. Torsitano '89
Steven K. Dillow '92
James R. Fetterolf '92
Matthew B. McKelvey '92
Mark Michini '92
John R. Kroboth '93
Byron Correll '96

Michael Gardner '96
David T. Hughes '96
Patrick Hoffman '98
Gregory Souhack '99
Larson Weinstein '09

NITTANY LION CLUB

(\$100 to \$249)

Jeffrey Leininger
Stephen Moore
Stephen J. Bilo '47
Samuel E. Neely '48
Richard E. Mathias '50
Richard M. Stephani '51
Thomas M. Barrett '53
Robert F. Coniff '54
Jack L. Sadler '57
Gordon R. Schmidt '63
Randy D. Coyle '71
Keith T. Davin '74
William L. Stevick '79
Howard J. McDonald Jr. '85
Curt Thompson '89
Wesley Ellis '90
Brian A. Houser '90
Paul M. Wright '91
Patrick J. McGuigan '92
Sheridan Palmer '98
Matthew Strand '99
David M. Prael '00
Michael Dudek '02
Joseph E. Russell II '02
David Siegelman '09

BROTHERHOOD CLUB

(Up to \$99)

Andrew P. Stimmler
Harry Sloat '59
Bob Seitzer '98
Douglas McKenna '99
Chris Gruber '00
David S. Stolzenberg '05



NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS TO HOUSE IN SUMMER 2011

- *Significant Upgrades Made to Third Floor Bathroom*
- *Thanks to Alumni, Outdoor Repairs Were Addressed*

Many alumni can relate to the conditions of the existing bathrooms on the second and third floors of the house. Fortunately, during the summer of 2011, the House Corporation was in a position to begin to make necessary changes that will be fully incorporated into future, more extensive renovations. Ideally, both the second and third floor bathrooms were to be renovated. The members of the House Corporation identified building façade concerns in the spring, which required immediate repair. As a result, the existing funds, which were successfully developed under the leadership of past President **Aric Wagner '90** and Treasurer **Rodney Hutter '89**, needed to be funneled to only one bathroom and some exterior repairs.

The third floor bathroom renovation project is significant. The bathroom as it existed had only two toilets and one shower. The renovation, which is ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant, includes two toilets, a urinal, and two showers. The appropriate complement of three sinks is also provided. This was achieved by expanding the bathroom into the adjacent room, creating a single occupancy room. The work, designed and built by local State College firm HAAS Building Solutions, was completed just as students returned. A new continuously poured blue floor, white tile walls and durable blue high-density polymer toilet partitions creates a University-themed bathroom that is miles beyond the previously existing facilities, and built to appropriate institutional standards to last for many years.



The bathroom renovation in progress

A plan for the full renovation of the second floor bathroom is ready for construction but will require additional funding to complete. The House Corporation hopes to secure funding for this project in the next year or two, at the latest.

In addition to the work inside the house, significant repairs to the slate roof, gutters and caulking were required, and completed at the end of August. Most significantly, repairs were needed to the gable ends of the house at the parapet walls, where masonry was loose from continued freeze and thaw conditions at State College. The team was not aware of any significant masonry repairs made to the house since it was originally constructed, so such an undertaking was quite due.

While the House Corporation hoped to make all masonry repairs this summer, non-critical work was planned for later summers to allow for the renovation of the third floor bathroom this year. Alumni are invited to make contributions to the ongoing building project funds to continue improving the home of Gamma Omega ATΩs. See page 1 for information on where to send gifts.

You are invited to visit the house and see the improvements for yourself. You'll wish you had a bathroom like the newly renovated third floor bathroom when you attended!

ATΩ Bond Remains Strong with Corey Cavada '91

Corey Cavada '91 admits he was not a model student. In fact, he learned more after college than when he was in college. One of the most important things Corey did receive while attending PSU was brotherhood.

Corey, **Damion Spahr '92**, and **Scott Hawk '91** lived on the same floor their freshman year. By the end of spring, Corey had been at the ATΩ house almost every weekend. It was a place he fit in and where the brothers were genuine in everything they did and said. Corey had found his niche on the campus of roughly 44,000 students.

Admittedly, Corey has not been too involved in the chapter following graduation. "Unfortunately I haven't been able to contribute as much back to ATΩ over the last several years as I would like to have," said Corey. "We are turning the corner and I will be back to contributing more than advice in the near future." When asked why it was so important to him to get involved with ATΩ, Corey had one simple explanation: "If it weren't for ATΩ I wouldn't have the brothers and friends that I have, some of whom are the most important people in my life. And if we don't stay involved there will be a dismal future for ATΩ."

The brothers and friends Corey speaks of—**PJ McGuigan '92**, **Jim Powel '92**, **Mike Beliasov '92**, **Dan Feldman '91**, **Rick Zaborowski '90**, **Phillip Mervis '89**, and **Rich Rocha '88**—are some of the very brothers that have helped Corey through one of the toughest years of his life. In 2005, both of Corey's parents passed away suddenly; his mother from ovarian cancer and his father of a heart attack within two months. "Those things set me back emotionally, spiritually, mentally, and financially, almost to the brink." The friends Corey enjoyed when times were good were there during those trying times, too. "When you experience something as traumatic as dealing with parents passing away, and you look up at the funeral home to see that brothers dropped what they were doing to drive hours just to be there for you, that's brotherhood."

In times of tragedy, there is always triumph. At the same time as his parents' deaths, Corey and his wife, Sherri, welcomed their daughter, Mia, into the world. Corey is moving forward in his life, managing the raw materials at Royal Window and Doors, eyeing "highly unlikely" back-to-back sub-100 scores on the links, catching a Penguins hockey game every now and then, and entertaining his daughter. While Corey might not have been a model student, he definitely is a model ATΩ "with a bond as strong as right itself and as lasting as humanity."

HOMECOMING 2011

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14
Cocktail Party at the House
Catering by Donna Ray
7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15
Tailgate Party
Spots 5022 and 5023,
next to the IM Building.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16
Breakfast at the House
Catering by Donna Ray
Board meeting to follow

All events are BYOB and free.



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Attention: This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. 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.

RE-FOUNDING FATHERS PLANNING A 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

September 26, 1987 seems like only yesterday, doesn't it? Alas, for those of us lucky enough to be re-founding fathers, Alpha and Beta pledge classes, the reality is we were initiated as members of this great fraternity almost 25 years ago. To celebrate this milestone, we are planning a 25th anniversary reunion to be held in State College. Updates and more information will be distributed via e-mail and on Facebook. Please make sure your contact information is up to date on www.psu-taus.org or e-mail **Rich Kuegler '89** at kuegler1@comcast.net. We hope you can make it and look forward to seeing you.

