



GAMMA GAB

A PUBLICATION OF THE GAMMA OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA TAU OMEGA

WINTER 2011

ADMIRING ACHIEVEMENT, INSPIRING IMPROVEMENT

ALUMNI STEP UP

In October a new group of Gamma Omega alumni rose to the occasion to become new members of the Gamma Omega House Corporation. **Len Wiles '90** is the new vice president, **P. J. McGuigan '92** is the new secretary, and **Bill Posey '92** is the new member in charge of the physical plant. I wish to extend my thanks to these alumni who have stepped up to take positions that were left by **Aric Wagner '90**, **Rich Kuegler '89**, and **Michael Walter '90**. Moreover, these are big shoes to fill. We are fortunate to have good continuity within the house corporation, with many members remaining in place and several ex-members available for assistance. I would also encourage other alumni to become involved. This rotation gives other Gamma Omega alumni the opportunity to contribute their time and efforts to the ATΩ experience, while allowing alumni who choose to be active in the house corporation for longer periods to do so.

UNDERGRADUATE SUCCESS

This fall the chapter initiated 17 brothers into Gamma Omega, and we are looking forward to a successful spring recruitment. The Gamma Omegas are doing well. From the now traditional and amazing effort put forth for THON to winning this year's Greek Sing event in November (with Delta Gamma and Kappa Sigma with their version of Spamalot), the men of Gamma Omega show achievement to be admired.

Because I have been involved in the corporation for over two years, I have had the honor and pleasure of getting to know these men. They desire continued achievement, success, and improvement in areas where we can help. Upon election as house corporation president, I identified two of the targeted areas for continued improvement: upgrades to the chapter house and—most importantly—continued improvement in grades.

ACADEMIC PLANS SET IN MOTION

The alumni and corporation must inspire improvement in academics. While there is a continual need for monetary donations for chapter house upgrades and operational costs, we challenged the Gamma Omega undergraduates during Homecoming weekend to improve their grades. A simple call for more studying and better test scores is not enough. We discussed preliminary ideas for how the undergraduates can assist each other, and we are committed to making better grades attainable for them by pledging to focus our efforts on this issue. The house corporation will conduct a chapter retreat during the spring semester with an agenda to include traditional items, such as: successful recruitment, risk management efforts, alumni relations, chapter house physical plant improvements and standards, and other topics. The event will also include significant discussion and planning academic improvement.

GIVE BACK TO ATΩ

We are planning our 2011 retreat as well as Founders' Day events during the Blue-White game weekend. During the weekend we will celebrate and honor our Golden Taus: alumni initiated 50 years ago. Please consider how you might positively impact the ATΩs at Penn State. The Gamma Omegas are deserving of our admiration for their achievement, and they are also deserving of our inspiration for improvement. Their continued success lies both in their hands and in ours. We invite you to give back to ATΩ at Penn State as it has given all of us alumni so very much.



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

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CORPORATION
MEMBERS ELECTED

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We are Penn State ATΩ!

Please visit our Web site for additional details regarding events in your area.
www.psutaus.org

Stay up to date on our efforts for Penn State Dance MaraTHON.
<http://atozta.weebly.com>



New House Corporation Members Elected

At our annual election during Homecoming weekend, new board members joined the Gamma Omega House Corporation. Please join your brothers in congratulating them on their election and in wishing the corporation members well during their tenure.

Damion Spahr '92, who has been a driving force in managing improvements to the physical condition of the house over the last year, was elected as president of the house corporation. He replaces outgoing President **Aric Wagner '90**, who served a four-year term. Also completing terms with the house corporation were **Rich Kuegler '89**, vice president, and **Mike Walter '90**, chapter relations.

Our newest members:

Len Wiles '91

Len has enjoyed a well-traveled and successful career since graduating from Penn State with a chemical engineering degree. During his 19 years with BASF Chemical Catalyst Division, Len has held roles in engineering, manufacturing, and managing businesses in North America, Europe, and South Africa. Len splits his time between London, England, and Detroit, Michigan, managing automotive-mobile emissions environmental catalysts. He enjoys coming back to Penn State games with his sons, Josh (13) and Alex (9). The family resides on Lake St. Clair in Michigan and often vacations at a family house in Conneaut Lake, Pennsylvania.

P. J. McGuigan '92

P. J. is employed as an oracle database administrator for BNY Mellon in Pittsburgh. He and his wife, Lisa Zone McGuigan, have two children, Daniel (10) and Caroline (7). The family returned to western Pennsylvania in July of 2007 when they moved to the Pittsburgh suburb of Mt. Lebanon after living in Baltimore, Maryland, for 14 years. P. J. is active in youth sports, coaching his son's football and baseball teams, and plays flag football year round. He is looking forward to being involved with ATΩ again and helping continue the legacy of the strong chapter Gamma Omega has become.

Bill Posey '92

Bill lives in Bulter, Pennsylvania, and is married to Tricia. They have one son and future Tau, Luke, who is 2 years old. Bill is the director of composite products for SinterMet/Hitachi Metals America and is responsible for sales in North, South, and Central America. Prior to SinterMet, Bill had sales positions with Westinghouse, ICI Chemicals, and Lord Corporation. Bill keeps in close contact with many ATΩs and Penn State alumni and enjoys golf and skeet shooting in his spare time.

Thank you to all past, present, and future house corporation members.

House Corporation

Chairman
Lou Gomlick '57

President
Damion Spahr '92

Vice President
Len Wiles '90

Treasurer
Rod Hutter '89

Secretary
P. J. McGuigan '92

Chapter Relations
Dann Cornali '72

Physical Plant
Bill Posey '92

Alumni Relations
Dave Siegelman '09

Alumni Events
John Frain '89

Undergraduate Member
Greg Guerrieri '13

Homecoming Loss to Illini Could Not Dampen ATΩ Spirit



We had a beautiful day for our catered tailgate at Beaver Stadium during Homecoming.

The second weekend in October marked the culmination of a festive Homecoming week enjoyed by five decades of alumni and our entire undergraduate chapter. While the undergraduates and their cheerleading club counterparts worked hard during the week to compete in events and prepare a great KISS rock band-themed float, alumni returned to State College to meet old friends and recall fond memories of Penn State days gone by. More than 30 alumni from the 1960s through 2009 attended the festivities. The Friday night cocktail party at the chapter house was a hit and a great time to see pledge brothers and meet new friends. Everyone in attendance agreed that our very capable cook, Donna Ray, put together a spread worthy of a Bobby Flay throwdown.

On Saturday we held a catered tailgate at Beaver Stadium. Thank you to **Fred "Muttonhead" Anton '93** for donating his front row IM building parking spaces to support this event. The shaded setting amidst the grassy hills along University Drive was the perfect place for a fun-filled day of tailgating and general revelry. Even a disappointing loss to the lowly Illini (save additional commentary for my therapist, **Dr. Cattano '66**) could not dampen our ATΩ spirit. Thanks to all for coming. See you at Founders' Day!

Fraternally,
Rich Kuegler '89
kuegler1@comcast.net



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. Since the fall of 2009, 56 contributions were made, totaling \$6,311. The Gamma Omega House Corporation thanks you for your support—it truly makes a difference.

The following is a list of contributors since the fall of 2006, listed by graduation year, in their life-to-date cumulative giving level. 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, P.O. Box 1009, State College, PA 16804.

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. Eisenhour '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
- Bryon Correll '96
- * Michael Gardner '96
- * David T. Hughes '96
- Patrick Hoffman '98
- Gregory Souchack '99

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)

- * Harry Sloat '59
- * David C. Ulmer '62
- Andrew P. Stimmler '93
- Bob Seitzer '98
- Douglas McKenna '99
- Chris Gruber '00
- * David S. Stolzenberg '05
- * Donor to the fall 2009 appeal



Thanks to your generous donations, the dining room has been outfitted with new tables.

ESTATE GIVING MADE POSSIBLE

The Gamma Omega Association has created an opportunity for alumni to leave a lasting legacy for the brothers of Alpha Tau Omega. The association welcomes all Gamma Omega alumni to consider establishing a planned gift through their will or other estate planning documents.

This option will recognize brothers who have chosen to support the association and the Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega in a unique way. Estate gifts may be considered as tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor for guidance on this point. If you are interested in establishing a planned gift through your will or other estate planning and would like more information, please contact **Damion Spahr '92** at dspahr@reynoldsconstruction.com.





ALUMNI SURVEY RESULTS

Thank You for Your Input

Last spring the House Corporation conducted a survey of our alumni to identify which events and activities might be of interest. It was our intent to better understand what you, our alumni, expect and want in a Gamma Omega event. Thank you to all who responded; we learned a great deal. More importantly, we listened to the feedback and have acted on this information. Your survey feedback was instrumental in developing the plan for this year's Founders' Day celebration.

Over 120 surveys were returned with responses, and many included constructive ideas that would help improve attendance and participation at alumni events. Homecoming and Founders' Day were identified as the most popular events for State College, while the next most popular were regional events. As a group, we have had some success in a few cities (Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and D.C., in particular), but there is room for improvement. A key finding was that you would be more likely to attend if the event was geared toward your particular era (year group, pledge class) in the form of a reunion. It was also important to meet at the house, but offer other venues for activities as well. As a result, the house corporation has established this year's Founders' Day as a reunion for our Golden Taus, with events at the chapter house and the Nittany Lion Inn. We will continue to seek your input to improve our events and to give everyone the opportunity to reconnect with ATΩ, Penn State, and the lifelong friends we made here.

If anyone is interested in the full survey results, they can be found on our Web site, www.psutaus.org.

ATΩ

REFLECTIONS FROM A GOLDEN TAU

Spotlight on George Geiser '42



For his 88th birthday, George Geiser '42 (second from left) was surprised with a flight over northern Arizona in a C-45 from World War II. At the celebration was ATΩ brother Ellis Bergey '43 (far left).

"Being in the fraternity was a good period in time," said **George Geiser '42**. "It was an impressionistic part of life since it was the first time I was away from home, but it gave me a certain sense of what life required."

George worked during college to finance his education. Working in a steel mill for Bethlehem Steel, he earned \$5.80 each day. This helped to cover the annual fee at Penn State, which was less than \$100 each semester, as well as the \$50 per month fee for room and board at the ATΩ house. George recalls that during his time at the University, the population stood right around 5,000 students, with 4,000 men and 1,000 women.

Reflecting on his time in the chapter, George shared, "I liked the formality of the organization and the friendliness of the brothers. Every year you lost a quarter of your friends but

gained a new quarter. It was always fun to see the new guys come into the chapter."

After graduation, George worked for Westinghouse Electric Corporation for 43 years, earning the position of division general manager. In that time and through his experiences, George learned the importance of having the ability to get along with the people you worked for and who worked with you.

George now lives in a retirement community in Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania, which he compares to a co-ed fraternity. There is still the chance to make new friends and he takes the time to enjoy golfing, bowling, and playing the piano for members of the community to sing along. George has three children, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, with whom he celebrated his 90th birthday in December.

Bob Neubert '64 Receives Well-Rounded Experience at ATΩ



For **Bob Neubert '64**, the prospect of joining a fraternity meant an enriched college experience with the chance to build new friendships. He visited with various fraternities and ultimately discovered in ATΩ a group where he could relate and be happy.

"I developed broad relationships with people in the chapter because we were together during many of life's experiences, both good and bad. At that stage in life, everything is moving forward. Each fall I looked



ATΩ PREPARED ERIK LAWLER '10 FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE

Throughout his childhood, **Erik Lawler '10** saw the model of friendship demonstrated by his father and his friends. Their friendships were deep, their families vacationed together, and they were always there for one another. These friends were his dad's fraternity brothers, and their example encouraged Erik to consider a fraternity when it was his turn to start college.

Erik's own fraternity experience surpassed his expectations. "I showed up at ATΩ one day and never left. It was by and large the best time of my life. Not only did I have an amazing time, but I grew both professionally and personally."

"You need to protect ATΩ for those who came before you and those who will come after you."

The value of this time was not lost on Erik. "Penn State and ATΩ first started as places to get my degree and leave. As time went on it became much more. The experiences I had and the people I met began to define me. I found myself trying to give back to the house and the University for all that they did for me."

"When I was elected as chapter president, someone shared something with me that really stuck: 'You need to protect ATΩ for those who came before you and those who will come after you. Do not waste a moment of your experience, and do not settle for mediocrity. Make it a house we can all be proud of. You get what you put in.'" Erik worked to live up to that advice and guided the chapter as social chairman and president.

Erik has made strides professionally in the short time since leaving Penn State with a degree in marketing. After graduation, he began working as an activation manager with Team Enterprises on their MillerCoors account. There he was responsible for on-premise sales and managed two teams of promotions models. In December, Erik accepted a new position with the Boston Beer Company in Pittsburgh as an account manager. He can be reached at erikjlawler@gmail.com.

forward to coming back to campus, reestablishing relationships, catching up with friends, and falling back into a routine."

"My time at ATΩ certainly enriched my college experience and made me much more well-rounded. That time shaped my beliefs in what other people are capable of; it added to my self confidence, and created new abilities for me."

Bob graduated with a degree in accounting and was stationed with the Army for two years in Paris. Returning to the States, he attended business school at Harvard and began to work with Ernst & Young, eventually becoming a partner during his 33 years with the company. Bob and his wife, Joy, lived all over the country and the world, making their home in Connecticut, Paris, San Juan, Houston, Baltimore, and Detroit.

Regional Gamma Omega Events

If you are interested in hosting a local Gamma Omega event or would like to find out more about events in your area, please contact **John Frain '89** at jfrainjr@verizon.net or e-mail psutaus@comcast.net for more information.

LOCATION

Atlanta
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Central Pennsylvania
New Hampshire
New York
Boston
Washington, D.C.
Los Angeles

HOST

Tom Merry '89
John Frain '89
Jon Kroboth '93
John Hershey '67
Evan Pierce '91
Joe Cattano '66
Eric Domski '90
Matt McKelvey '93
Jason Cave '93

TAUΩ

REUNIONS

We would like to invite you to the chapter house for pledge class reunions or other visits to State College. Please contact **John Frain '89** at jfrainjr@verizon.net to coordinate reunions with the chapter during the school year.

CHAPTER RETREAT

The house corporation is planning to host a leadership retreat this spring and would appreciate your help. If you are interested in being involved, please contact **Damion Spahr '92** at dspahr@reynoldsconstruction.com for details.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Please contact **Rich Kuegler '89** at kuegler1@comcast.net with announcements of any job openings or internship opportunities. Rich will forward these to the chapter and post them on www.psutaus.org.

FACEBOOK USER?

Next time you log on, look for the Penn State ATΩ group managed by **John Schneider '97**. Use it to connect with old friends and to stay current on upcoming activities in your area and State College.

PHOTOS FROM YOUR ERA

We have started a project to compile photos of our house and fraternity over the decades. Please contact **Rich Kuegler '89** if you have photos that could be reproduced electronically. You can e-mail scanned files or send your originals—he promises to send them back to you!

Throughout his career, Bob learned the importance of working to increase his knowledge and improving himself as a leader. "Be the best at what you do and focus on that first. Never stop learning or you will be unable to achieve as much as you are capable of. Be a good listener and take advice from others."

These days, Bob spends his time on the board of directors for a company in Pittsburgh and as an advisor for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. Joy is his best fishing buddy and the two enjoy traveling and seeing their children. The couple has three children: Bryn, Jeffrey, and Robert, and two grandchildren, Maddy and Andrew. Bob can be reached at bob.neubert@gmail.com.

GAMMA GAB

ATΩ GAMMA OMEGA
C/O ARIC WAGNER
P.O. Box 7925
FREDRICKSBURG, VA 22404

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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25th Anniversary Plans

Attention Founding Fathers, Alpha, and Beta pledge classes! Your 25th anniversary is rapidly approaching—Founders' Day 2012. Dust off the white suits (Vic, Piergallini), Swatch watches (Wiley, Hutter), and mullets (too many to count). Go to the Facebook group for ATΩ Penn State or e-mail psutaus@comcast.net to find out more.

Upcoming Events

February 19-20
THON

February or March
Leadership Retreat

April 15-17
Founders' Day and Blue-White Game

Summer Events

Watch www.psutaus.org or our Facebook group to see Gamma Omega's regional events.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOUSE REPAIRS

The undergraduate chapter has identified several house repair and maintenance projects that the brotherhood would like to undertake during the spring semester and summer break. They have proposed a wide range of projects, from painting to repairs to actual enhancements of our beloved chapter house.

If you are handy, possess some unique skills (woodworking, carpentry, landscaping, etc.), or just know your way around a hammer and are willing to work alongside chapter members in completing house projects, please contact **Damion Spahr '92** at (610) 334-2661 or dspahr@reynoldsconstruction.com.

HONORING THE GOLDEN TAUS

Save the Date for Founders' Day

It's the time of year to start thinking about Founders' Day weekend. The house corporation has decided to honor all brothers who have been members of Gamma Omega for 50 years or more. These special ATΩs will be the guests of honor at our celebration.

The 2011 Founders' Day activities will take place **April 15-17** during the Blue-White football game weekend. The house corporation and I hope this weekend will bring in a great number of alumni from all generations.

More detailed information for the weekend will follow. For these events to be successful, strong participation is required. So, save the dates, call the ATΩ brothers you haven't seen in some time, and make plans to attend.

I look forward to seeing you all. If you have any suggestions or questions, please give me a call or send me an e-mail.

VTL,
John Frain '89
Alumni Events
(215) 499-5117 | jfrainjr@verizon.net

Below is a tentative schedule of events.

Friday Afternoon
Golf Outing

Friday 8 p.m.
Cocktail Party BYOB;
appetizers provided by the house corporation

Saturday Afternoon
Tailgate prior to the Blue-White football game

Saturday Evening
Dinner honoring our distinguished alumni

Sunday Morning
Breakfast followed by a house corporation meeting