



GAMMA OMEGA

A PUBLICATION OF THE GAMMA OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA TAU OMEGA

SPRING 2012

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THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING LUCKY AND BEING GOOD

Tradition of Excellence Maintained at Gamma Omega

It is often said that anyone can be lucky once, but being able to repeat a performance is the difference between being lucky and being good. In the spring of 2011, the Gamma Omega undergraduates won the Chapter of Excellence Award from the Penn State Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Under the presidential leadership of **Chris Tomaselli '13**, the Taus went on to secure the first True Merit Award from the National Fraternity since 2003.

It became obvious to the now outgoing president, **Tyler Parsels '13**, that a key to winning True Merit was achieving the Chapter of Excellence Award. Through his leadership, Gamma Omega reached this goal in April. The same week, I signed the forms for submission of the True Merit application to National. Repeating a feat is the demonstration of being truly good at the accomplishment. This summer, the Taus will find out if they, again, will be True Merit winners.

When I was asked to be the president of the House Corporation Board several years ago, I stated that we would focus on improving the chapter by bettering the aggregate grade point average, improving the physical plant, and improving our recruitment. My job is to advise and coach. Anyone can coach a good team. And a good team is what the leaders of the Gamma Omega Chapter had this year. The chapter saw success in recruitment, academics, and philanthropy, making the 2011-12 school year a triumphant one for Gamma Omega. You can read more about the chapter's successes in Tyler Parsels' report on page 2.

A repeat is sweet. A three-peat is almost unheard of in the sports world. The next challenge will be for our new class of leaders to again achieve Chapter of Excellence and True Merit. I ask for your support and that you consider coming back to see the young men that make me so proud.

We are hoping to renovate the second floor bathroom this summer, but our funds are borderline for this significant scope of work. If we can garner some of your financial support, we can provide the means to assist in continuing the good work of the active Gamma Omegas. Please consider giving so that we can complete this critical infrastructure improvement as soon as possible.

Words are inadequate to express my pride in the current Gamma Omega undergraduates. Through the year, the successes noted were offset by adversity, as we lost undergraduate **Spencer Seupel**. The prayers of the House Corporation remain with his family, and our undergraduates affected by this loss. The ATΩ experience teaches us all lessons, some of which are very hard to endure. Endure we will. We are Alpha Tau Omegas for a lifetime.



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

Gamma Omega Says Thank You to Rod Hutter '89 and Welcomes Alex Eng '11

In the fall, **Rod Hutter '89** stepped down from the House Corporation Board, where he served for five years as treasurer. During his time on the board, Rod and his wife had two children. Rod has been instrumental in building a positive cash position for the House Corporation and reducing liability and debt. His guidance was instrumental in providing funding for the third floor bathroom renovation and the

funding that exists for the upcoming project on the second floor. Despite his busy work schedule and life in Manhattan, Rod has given extensively to the Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega. Now it is time for Rod to spend more time with his growing family. We thank Rod for his dedication, leadership, and time in making Gamma Omega a better place and improving the chapter's financial position.

Last fall, **Alex Eng '11** joined the House Corporation as treasurer, replacing Rod. Alex joined Alpha Tau Omega in 2007. Throughout his college career, Alex was involved with the chapter, serving on the Executive Board as the treasurer and vice president. He was also the chapter's recruitment chairman for three semesters, resulting in the successful recruitment of 43 brothers.

(Continued on page 3)



ATΩ ENDS THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR WITH A BANG

- Strong Campus Presence Helps Yield 34 New Members
- Undergraduates Excel in Philanthropy, Academics

What a fun and busy year it has been for the Gamma Omega Chapter. This year, our chapter received the distinct recognition as a Chapter of Excellence by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life for the second consecutive year. Only nine of 46 IFC fraternities received this distinction. The brotherhood worked hard in the areas of philanthropy and community service activities, recruitment, intramural sports, and academics. As we head into the summer, we can all feel proud of what we have accomplished this year as a chapter.

Gamma Omega GPA Moves Up 11 Spots in IFC Rankings

Academics have been a major focal point with our chapter. Every semester since the fall of 2010, we have improved our GPA. Last fall, we raised our GPA to a 3.04 and moved up 11 spots



Brothers before the Out of Darkness Community Walk, an event to raise awareness for suicide prevention.



Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life Dr. Roy Baker (left) with current President Tyler Parsels '13, fall 2012 President Thomas Todd '14, fall 2012 Vice President Lorenzo Massaro '14, and current Vice President Chris Craddock '13 during Greek Column Awards where Gamma Omega received the 2011 Chapter of Excellence Award, Philanthropy Leadership Award, and the Chapter Programming Award, among others.

in the IFC fraternity rankings. Scholarship Chairman and Vice President **Chris Craddock '13** says, "I am glad we are making progress as a chapter but know we need to keep getting better and improving in this area."

Philanthropic Success Seen Throughout School Year

We continue to excel philanthropically. This year, Gamma Omega, along with our fundraising partners Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, helped raise over \$330,000 for Penn State's Dance Marathon, which helps children fight pediatric cancer. This was the second highest amount we have ever raised and also made us the number one Greek fundraiser for the 16th straight year, contributing to the record-breaking \$10.6 million THON total. For the first time, we also held a spring philanthropy called GladiATΩrs which raised \$500 to help benefit Ben Speaks: a public charity focused on raising suicide awareness, as well as Camp Cadet, which offers young men and women between the ages of 12 and 15 a chance to participate in a weeklong law enforcement academy.

Chapter Boasts 100% Retention Rate in 2011-2012

Gamma Omega saw one of the most successful recruitment years in recent memory. We had 100% retention rates with 22 new members in the fall and 12 in the spring, totaling 34 new members for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Undergraduates Stay Active in Community

Some of the most recent activities we have done as a chapter include signing the Gamma Omega Brother Code and participating in ATΩ Help Day for the very first time. The Gamma Omega Brother Code was signed on March 18 by each brother and states that as a Chapter, we will hold ourselves to a higher standard in terms of integrity, respect, accountability, and forward thinking. We can proudly say we have had zero risk management violations over the entire year and believe this is another great step to improving our brotherhood.

ATΩ Help Day was a brotherhood initiative within the State College community. On April 15, brothers cleaned up trash throughout the neighborhood and participated in the Out of Darkness Community Walk to raise awareness for suicide prevention.

We are very proud of the accomplishments we achieved this year. A big thank-you is needed for all of our alumni. Without your support, we would not be where we are today. You are



always welcome to visit the chapter house.

Fraternally,
Tyler Parsels '13
President
Tyler.parsels@gmail.com
(908) 642-1309



Brothers after signing the Gamma Omega Brother Code on March 18. Our national consultant, Ernest Walker, was on hand for the signing ceremony.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Worthy Master
Thomas Todd '13
 tqt5043@psu.edu
 (202) 415-1519

Worthy Marshal
Lorenzo Massaro '12
 lxm5137@psu.edu

Worthy Keeper of the Exchequer
Brian Schwartz '15
 bxs5162@psu.edu

Worthy Chaplain
Dave Halliday '15
 dsh5197@psu.edu

Worthy Keeper of the Annals
Greg Alexander '15
 goa5053@psu.edu

Worthy Scribe
Jason Weingarten '15
 jww5436@psu.edu

Recruitment Chairman
Maston McMahon '14
 mbm5220@psu.edu
 (203) 736-4499



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The undergraduate chapter has identified several house repair and maintenance projects that they would like to undertake this summer. They have proposed a wide range of projects. 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, please contact **Damion Spahr '92** at dspahr@reynoldsconstruction.com or (610) 334-2661.

WELCOME, NEW INITIATES

Kevin Conwell '15
Massapequa Park, N.Y.

Andrew Kielar '15
Thornton, Pa.

David Park '15
Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

Michael Devaney '15
Titusville, N.J.

Zachary Manchas '14
Brownsville, Pa.

Dominic Rotella '15
Newtown, Pa.

Will Douglas '15
Eatontown, N.J.

Johnny Mahon '15
New Hyde Park, N.Y.

Matt Soffer '15
Blue Bell, Pa.

Fernando Fuentes '15
Nuevo Leon, Mexico

John Mika '15
Fairfax, Va.

David Zareh '15
Roslyn Heights, N.Y.

Gamma Omega Says Goodbye

(Continued from page 1)

Within the Penn State community, Alex was a finance captain for THON 2010 and communications captain for THON 2011, partook in Greek Week marketing in 2011, and briefly served as the Interfraternity Council vice president for finance. He graduated from Penn State in May 2011 with a degree in finance, economics, and international business.

Alex lives in Philadelphia and works for Pricewaterhouse Coopers as a consultant in the healthcare industry. Although he travels every week for work, he enjoys making weekend trips to Happy Valley to keep in touch with friends who still attend Penn State. Alex looks forward to improving the Gamma Omega Chapter and helping bridge the gap between the alumni network and active brotherhood. He hopes to foster more frequent and valuable connections between all brothers—past and present. Alex can be contacted at awe5022@gmail.com and (267) 566-5005.

RECRUITMENT RECOMMENDATION

Prospect's Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____

Academic Status (incoming freshman, current undergraduate) _____

Does prospect have an ATΩ relative? List name, relationship and chapter _____

Please send to: Recruitment Chairman **Maston McMahon '14**

P.O. Box 1009 | State College, PA 16804

mbm5220@psu.edu | (203) 736-4499



BUSINESS AND SPORTS A WINNING COMBINATION FOR TRAVIS WILLIAMS '92

TTravis Williams '92 counts his time in the Gamma Omega Chapter as some of the best times of his life. The road to ATΩ began in the spring semester of his freshman year after he and some friends decided to go through recruitment after a semester in Penn State's dorms. Travis found that the brotherhood his father experienced as an ATΩ was the drawing point for him to join Gamma Omega.

"I started [recruitment] late in the cycle, and ended up calling ATΩ and speaking with **Russell Troutman '90**," stated Travis. Russ invited Travis to a social where he and **Damion Spahr '92** spoke for two hours and they invited him into the chapter. "Living in the house was great. I lived there for about two-and-a-half years. It was neat living with such a diverse group of people, especially since we all got along quite well. I will always remember my friendships and experiences from ATΩ." It didn't hurt, of course, that the house was beautiful after having been refounded just three years prior.

During his junior year, Travis had a change of heart in terms of his educational path. He realized how much he enjoyed people and business and soon switched his major from engineering to a pre-law focus in international politics. After graduating from Penn State, Travis enrolled in law school at Duquesne University, the same place his future wife, Nikki, attended pharmacy school. After graduating law school, Travis married Nikki and started practicing law at Reed Smith L.L.P., where he primarily focused on corporate law but held a small, niche practice in sports. He served as outside



counsel for the Pittsburgh Pirates, Buffalo Sabres and Fox Sports Net on a variety of matters and also acted as counsel to Heinz and Mellon Bank in connection with the naming rights deals for Heinz Field and Mellon Arena, respectively.

In 2008, Travis was approached by the Penguins organization to join them as general counsel and to oversee the construction of CONSOL Energy Center. Under his guidance, the arena project was finished on time and under budget. Travis is now the chief operating officer and general counsel of the Penguins, overseeing finance, legal, technology, human resources, arena operations, and development projects. One of his current projects is the redevelopment of the 28-acre former Mellon Arena site.

He is also the proud father of six children and has become a "hockey dad" for his two oldest sons, Anthony and Mario. He spends time supporting his two daughters, Lucia and Sofia, in their ballet, cheerleading, and musical theater activities, while also keeping track of his two youngest sons, Gino and Bruno. Travis, Nikki and the kids live in Nevillewood, south of downtown Pittsburgh.

Travis and Nikki recently entertained several ATΩ alumni at a Penguins home game. They had a wonderful evening with **Mike Walter '90**, **Len Wiles '90**, **PJ McGuigan '92**, **Corey Cavada '91**, **Mike Troese '92**, **Bill Posey '92**, and **Mike Trask '94**. It was great seeing all of them and catching up on their lives, particularly since they hadn't seen many of them since Travis graduated from Penn State. You can e-mail Travis at twilliams@pittsburghpenguins.com.

TAU TALK

REUNIONS

We would like to invite you to visit the house for pledge class reunions or other visits to State College. Please contact **John Frain '88** (jfrainjr@verizon.net) to coordinate reunions with Gamma Omega Chapter during the school year.

CHAPTER RETREAT

The board is planning a leadership retreat this spring and would appreciate your help. If you are interested in helping, please contact **Damion Spahr '92** for details.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

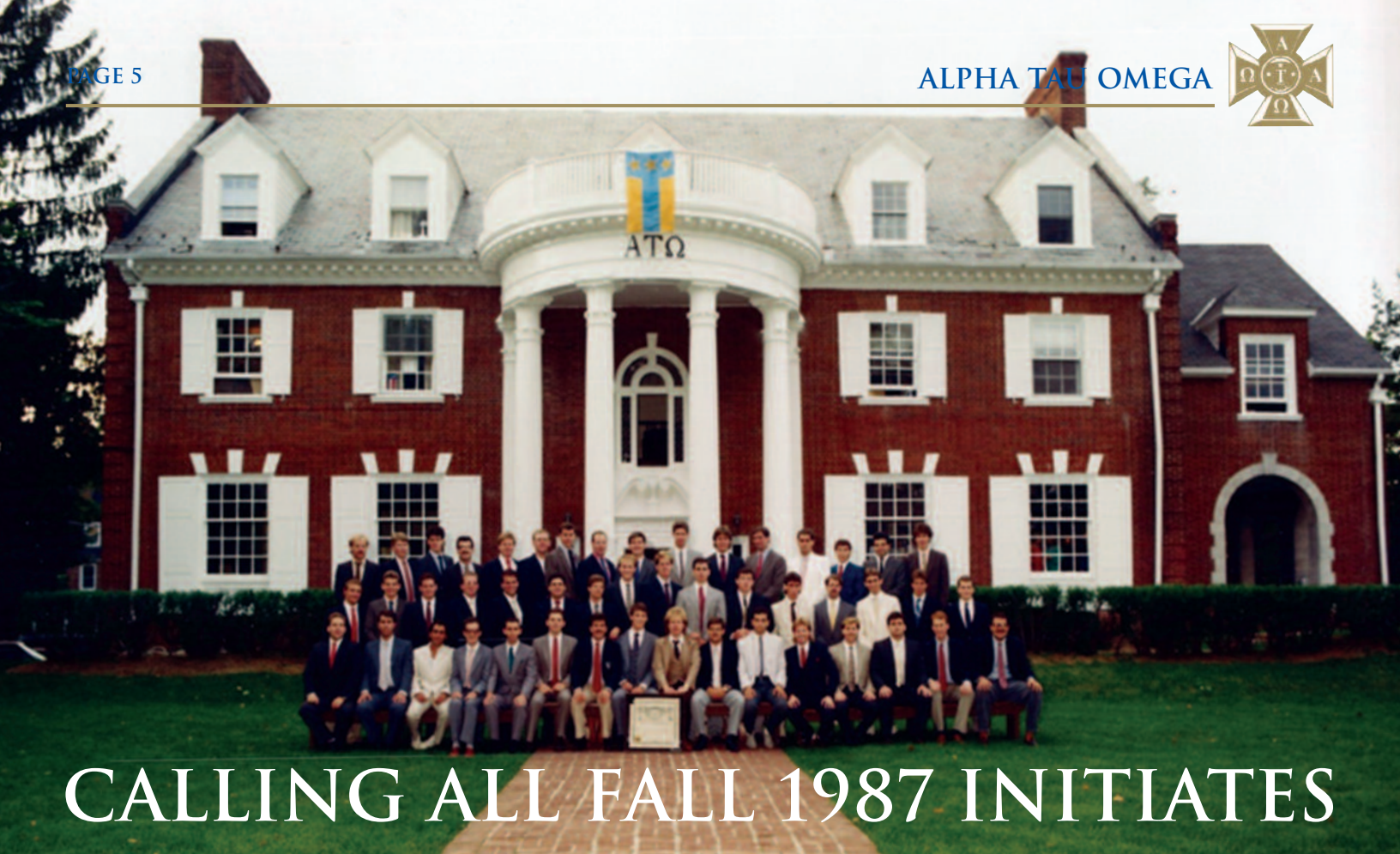
Please contact **Rich Kuegler '89** (kuegler1@comcast.net) with announcements on job openings or internship opportunities. Rich will forward information to the chapter and post it to the www.psutaus.org website.

FACEBOOK USER?

Next time you logon, 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.

LOOKING FOR PHOTOS FROM YOUR ERA

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



CALLING ALL FALL 1987 INITIATES

Though I am sure it is hard to believe, this fall will mark the 25th Anniversary of our initiation into this great fraternity. It seems like only yesterday that Worthy Grand Chief **Bob Simonds '43** presented then president **Tim Straley '89** with the Gamma Omega charter. Our initiation was celebrated with much revelry in 1987 and we intend to "Say Its Big, Say You Love It" in proper fashion this October.

So dust off your Tiki glasses and old Greek Week t-shirts. Please join your friends and brothers in celebrating your first 25 years as a Tau. We are planning several events that will give us all an opportunity to visit with lifelong friends and recall fond memories of our days in the house. This celebration is planned for the weekend of October 27, along with the Ohio State game.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, Oct. 26 **Golf Outing (weather permitting)**
Happy Hour/Cocktail Party
Saturday, Oct. 27 **Brunch/Reception at Chapter House**
Tailgate at Beaver Stadium

Please contact me for more information about the weekend or to volunteer to help in planning and preparations. All volunteers are welcome!

Fraternally,
Rich Kuegler '89
 kuegler1@comcast.net

Regional Gamma Omega Events

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

Atlanta	Tom Merry '89
Philadelphia	John Frain '88
Pittsburgh	Jon Kroboth '93
Central PA	John Hershey '67
New Hampshire	Evan Pierce '91
New York	Joe Cattano '66
Boston	Eric Domski '90
Washington, D.C.	Matt McKelvey '93
Los Angeles	Jason Cave '93

We Are
 Penn State ATΩ!

Please visit
www.psutaus.org

for details regarding
 events in your area.

Alumni Update

William L. Keifer '50 retired at 56. He and his wife, Roz, enjoyed collecting antiques, flying his hand-built model airplane, and their 16 grandchildren. Sadly, Roz recently passed away after 61 years of marriage. Bill resides in Lyons, N.Y.

John L. Parke '58 reports that every two years the 1957-59 ATΩs get together with their wives to see a football game, dine at the Nittany Lion Inn, and tailgate. Last year they saw the Eastern Michigan game. It was a great reunion and a great weekend. John and his wife, Judith, live in Malvern, Pa., and have three sons: John, Holt, and Tim.

Willard H. Robb '58 and his wife, Mary, just moved from St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, to Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Bill was disappointed to miss his pledge class gathering for the first time in 2011 for the East Michigan area. He is pleased with the summer 2011 *Gamma Gab* communicating outstanding chapter results. He hopes the chapter will keep up the good work. E-mail: robbstx@hotmail.com

H. William Van Matre '58 lives in Cambridge Springs, Pa., with his wife, Virginia. He is the co-owner of Van Matre Family Funeral Homes with his two sons, William and Brian. He reports that the Van Matre family is doing well and hopes the same for his brothers.

Eugene R. Curry '59 was a self-employed insurance broker for 52 years; he is now retired. He and his wife, Frances, have two grown children, Sean and Timothy. Eugene and Frances live in Sinking Spring, Pa. E-mail: genecurry@comcast.net

Peter W. Gano '59 is a retired professor of music from Grace College. Before retirement from Grace College in 1991, he worked for 23 years at Ohio State. He lives in Winona Lake, Ind., with his wife, Patricia; they have been married to for 49 years and have two children, Beth and Drew.

James R. McGranahan '65 has lived in Illinois since 1977. He is a financial representative doing retirement and estate planning for his client base, which includes many large farming operations. He has three adult sons: Chris, Matt, and Shane, as well as five grandchildren. Jim belongs to the St. Louis, Missouri, Penn State Alumni Association. E-mail: jim.mcgranahan@countryfin.com

GAMMA GAB

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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.*

2012 FOOTBALL AND ALUMNI EVENTS SCHEDULE

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Sept. 2 | Ohio |
| Sept. 8 | at Virginia |
| Sept. 15 | Navy |
| Sept. 22 | Temple |
| Sept. 29 | at Illinois |
| Oct. 6 | Northwestern
(Homecoming) |
| Oct. 20 | at Iowa |
| Oct. 27 | Ohio State
(25th Anniversary Initiation Celebration) |
| Nov. 3 | at Purdue |
| Nov. 10 | at Nebraska |
| Nov. 17 | Indiana |
| Nov. 24 | Wisconsin |

