



# GAMMA GAB

ALPHA TAU OMEGA • PENN STATE UNIVERSITY • SPRING 2013

## A SEASON OF GRATITUDE

**A**s the snow melts and our thoughts turn to spring, I am overwhelmed with gratitude.

I am grateful for how the undergraduates have represented us. They are among the leaders on campus with a 3.05 GPA and led the way at the IFC Dance Marathon, raising the most money of any organization for the 18th year in a row. We continue to place ATΩs in positions of leadership on campus and our reputation remains strong. We recently initiated 10 new brothers and had another nine young men accept bids to become pledges.

I am grateful for the generous response from alumni to our new scholarship funds, facilitated by ATΩ National Foundation. Early in January, we were more than halfway to our goal of \$40,000. This is both a statement to how much **George Greer '54** and **Lou Gomlick '57** mean to us and the high regard you hold Gamma Omega in your life.

I am grateful that the house we have called home for nearly 100 years continues to create bonds that know no limit. We have made significant improvements to the house and are making plans for the next series of renovations.

I am grateful for my brothers who serve on our board. We have once again been recognized as one of the best alumni boards in the country by the



national fraternity. I will be speaking with many of you about serving in some capacity, so please reflect on how you can give back. If you would like to get involved, please contact me.

I am grateful for the long history of excellence and achievement that Gamma Omega has. Next year, we will celebrate our 100th anniversary on the weekend of April 4-6 at the Nittany Lion Inn. More than 100 Gamma Omega alumni will return to State College for the celebration. Be on the lookout for more information from **John Frain '89** and his centennial celebration committee: **Dann Cornali '72**, **Rich Kuegler '89**,

**Aric Wagner '90**, **Bob Pilon '01**, and **Erik Lawler '10**.

I am grateful for all of your support and commitment to Gamma Omega and the House Corporation. I look forward to bringing us down the home stretch to our 100th anniversary. I am sure we will all be in awe of what this chapter and its alumni can accomplish in the next 100 years. I love and respect all of my brothers.

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

## More than \$21,000 Raised toward Scholarship Program *Your Help Is Needed to Reach Our \$40,000 Goal*

**G**amma Omega alumni have always been generous, and when we asked for your support this fall it was no exception. In September, the House Corporation voted to establish two scholarships, the Louis Gomlick Worthy Master Scholarship and the George Greer Leadership Scholarship. These will become permanent awards funded at ATΩ National Fraternity. The commitment to fully fund both scholarships is \$40,000. Until we reach \$40,000, the annual amount will be given by the House Corporation.

Led by a challenge gift from **Eric Domski '89**, we raised more than \$15,000 before and after the reunion weekend in October. With large gifts from **Scott Smith '89** and **John Frain '89**, we have raised more than \$21,000. Each dollar contributed is tax deductible.

“These awards will impact undergraduates and honor the large gift of time and treasury that Lou and George have made to the chapter. Please join me in honoring two of our most outstanding alumni,” House Corporation President **Damion Spahr '92** said.

The Louis Gomlick Worthy Master Scholarship will be awarded to the worthy master anytime Gamma Omega achieves Penn State’s Chapter of Excellence recognition or the national fraternity’s True Merit Award. The George Greer Leadership Scholarship will be awarded annually to an underclassman who best demonstrates the leadership characteristics that we expect from our members. The chapter will designate three candidates and a panel of alumni will choose the recipient.

Scholarship has been a focal point of Damion’s leadership as House Corporation president. Under his guidance, Gamma Omega has risen to earn one of the top GPAs on campus. These new scholarships are part of a three-way commitment from the alumni to the undergraduates, along with the commitment to improving the chapter house and fostering an environment that demonstrates what lifelong brotherhood means. These qualities help Gamma Omega maintain its status as one of the premier fraternities on campus.

**There is still time to be a part of this effort. Visit [www.pennstateato25.com](http://www.pennstateato25.com) to make your commitment.**



# Penn State's Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life Provides Insight into Greek Life on Campus

## Reflecting on My Six-Year Journey

As I complete my sixth year as director of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life at Penn State, I am happy to reflect on the journey we have taken together. I have had the pleasure of working with the alumni leadership, national headquarters staff, and, of course, the students who comprise the Gamma Omega Chapter, many of whom I now include in my family of friends.

## Largest Greek Community in the Nation

I've witnessed the growth of Penn State's fraternity and sorority community, which now stands as the largest Greek community in the nation, with 92 fraternities and sororities and close to 6,000 undergraduate members. We are fortunate to have some of the most talented men and women serving in leadership roles of our four governing councils: the Multicultural Greek-Letter Council, the Panhellenic Association, the National Panhellenic Council, and the Interfraternity Council.

## Finest Governing Council in the Country

The Penn State Interfraternity Council is one of the finest governing councils in the country today, as well as one of the very few student self-governing fraternity systems affiliated with chapters from the North-American Interfraternity Conference. Penn State is proud of its students and their commitment to our community.

## Alcohol Eliminated from Recruitment

When I arrived at Penn State six years ago, 8% of the undergraduate student body belonged to one of our recognized fraternities and sororities. Today, we are approaching 15%. Alcohol has been eliminated from Greek recruitment during a time when others claimed students would not want to join unless they were recruited with alcohol. The party scene at Penn State has changed from a six-night-per-week scenario to just three nights on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

## Focused on Anti-Hazing Initiatives

During the fall 2012 semester, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life

planned and hosted the most comprehensive anti-hazing initiative ever attempted in the United States. An individualized anti-hazing program was created based on research conducted with Penn State students where we gathered data that reflected a student's beliefs, attitudes, and feelings related to hazing. A total of 60 one-hour sessions were held during October and November 2012 for groups of 100 members each, where we shared the data and discussed the students' attitudes during highly interactive conversations. Other fraternity and sorority communities throughout the United States have contacted Penn State to learn more about our approach to anti-hazing education and to ask how we were able to provide this level of training to nearly 6,000 members of our Greek community.

## ATQs Provide Leadership on Campus

The Gamma Omega Chapter at Penn State continues to provide leadership as they have led all fraternities in the IFC-Panhellenic Dance Marathon fundraising event for more than 15 years. And, of course, **Tyler Parsels '13**, chapter president in 2011, was named Chapter President of the Year for IFC chapters and Greek Man of the Year. Today, **Lorenzo Massaro '14** serves as the 2013 IFC executive president and **Tommy Todd '14** is serving his second consecutive term as chapter president.

## Positive Outlook for Greek Community

The future of the Penn State's Greek community looks bright. Our students and their leaders understand and appreciate the challenges of tomorrow. Our alumni play a significant role in supporting and advising our men while they serve as valuable role models who demonstrate a lifelong commitment to Penn State University, our fraternity community, and the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity.

Fraternally,  
**Dr. Roy Baker**  
Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life  
Penn State University  
rvb27@sa.psu.edu

## Thank You, Loyal Donors

We are truly grateful to the following alumni and friends who have shown their support to Gamma Omega's scholarship program. Your contributions will make a difference in the lives of several undergraduate brothers. Thank you! Join this list by making your gift at [www.pennstateato25.com](http://www.pennstateato25.com).

Gretchen Larsen  
William L. Muir III  
G. Robert Overhiser Jr.  
Kenneth D. Kerwin '47  
J. Lee Everett III '48  
Richard M. Stephani '51

William E. Frazer Jr. '53  
C. Broock Weiss, M.D. '58  
W. Robert Mitchell '61  
William H. Surgner '61  
T. R. Evans '63  
James R. McGranahan '65

Ernest A. Smith '65  
Richard W. Kunkle '73  
John R. Gray '75  
Mark Biro '78  
Albert V. Anderson '83  
Chris O'Connor '83  
Sean M. Flatley '87  
Bruce V. Sones '87  
Kevin W. Cyphers '88  
Richard H. Rocha '88  
Brooks Clayville '89  
James DePhillips '89  
Christian N. DeVol '89  
Eric Domski '89  
John T. Frain '89  
Rodney Hutter '89  
Richard P. Kuegler '89

R. Keith Malicki '89  
Thomas Merry '89  
Philip D. Mervis '89  
Todd Olson '89  
Kenneth R. Shook '89  
Scott W. Smith '89  
Rocky C. Torsitano '89  
Victor Fioresi '90  
Wesley Horne '90  
Keith D. Mekenney '90  
Kerry G. Miller '90  
Evan Pierce '90  
Eric S. Thomas '90  
Russell Troutman '90  
Aric N. Wagner '90  
J. Michael Walter '90  
Christopher E. Whorral '90

Frederick W. Anton IV '91  
Daniel P. Feldman '91  
Scott Hawk '91  
Paul M. Wright '91  
Michael C. Beliasov '92  
Patrick J. McGuigan '92  
Matthew B. McKelvey '92  
William F. Posey '92  
James E. Powel '92  
Damion Spahr '92  
Keith Walt '92  
James R. Corbin '93  
Michael Malia '94  
Michael Trask '94  
Matthew M. Sharrer '98  
Jon Overhiser '08

## ERIC DOMSKI '89 PAYS IT FORWARD TO FUTURE GENERATIONS OF GAMMA OMEGA



**Q: What made you decide to join ATΩ?**

**A:** Gamma Omega was at the very beginning of its refounding when I joined. I looked into other fraternities but found that the brothers at ATΩ had a different energy; it felt like they were on a mission. I liked the idea of being able to build our own traditions rather than follow someone else's.

**Q: What influence did Gamma Omega have on your life?**

**A:** In January of 1987, right after Penn State beat Miami 14-10 in the Fiesta Bowl, I was home for winter break during my junior year when a fire demolished my parent's home. It was a challenging time both personally and financially, and as a result I had to take a semester off to earn money. Upon returning to PSU that fall, the brothers allowed me to forgo some of my financial burdens to live in the house, which allowed me to continue with school as a member of ATΩ. You never know how small acts of kindness can affect people's lives.

**Q: Where do you work now?**

**A:** I'm the VP of North America Application Sales at Oracle. I work with a team focusing on supply chain management, transportation planning, and warehouse management software applications for large companies. My career has taken me around the world to Europe, India, Australia, and South America. Over the past 20 years, I've had the opportunity to work with companies covering every industry and people from all walks of life.

**Q: What motivated you to support the scholarship campaign?**

**A:** It's important to reward those who take on added responsibility, show leadership, and go the extra mile. This scholarship campaign shows tangible backing to what ATΩ represents and the values we claim. As a parent saving for my children's college and all of the

expenses that go with it, I would look at any organization my child would want to join and evaluate what it stands for. Twenty-five years from now, I hope the brotherhood of today can enjoy the same type of camaraderie that we all felt at our 25th reunion.

**I want to thank everyone who participated in the Domski Challenge this fall. It was great to see everyone come out and support these scholarships.**

**Q: Why do you think it's important for others to support the campaign?**

**A:** With a job that has me traveling three to four days a week and then coming home to help raise my three children, I have found that incorporating some sort of service into my life helps take me out of my own world and into the world of others. In doing so, I have gotten to know some of the most amazing people, people that I would have never gotten to meet otherwise. I've found it to be very rewarding. Spending time and money to support ATΩ brings this home to an organization where I personally benefited.

Eric and his wife of 16 years, Susan, reside in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and have three children: Jason (12) and twins Zach and Paige (10). He can be reached at [esdomski@yahoo.com](mailto:esdomski@yahoo.com).



*Join Us Online*

**GAMMA OMEGA ALUMNI**  
[www.psutaus.org](http://www.psutaus.org)

**GAMMA OMEGA UNDERGRADUATES**  
[www.psuato.airset.com](http://www.psuato.airset.com)

## ALUMNUS LEARNS THE VALUE OF GETTING INVOLVED

*Spotlight on David Siegelman '09*



As a member of Gamma Omega, **David Siegelman '09** had the opportunity to get involved on campus in ways he never imagined. Through his participation in THON, intramural sports, and various philanthropy projects, he grew into the successful man he is today.

“Gamma Omega allowed me to diversify myself by giving me experiences with different types of people, taking on leadership roles I had never stepped into before, and finding out what truly close

friendships are throughout college and to this day.”

During his sophomore year, David served as president, THON chairman, and Greek Sing chairman. He served as vice president a year later. Through these roles, David learned just how powerful it is to be surrounded by a group of people all working toward the same goal.

“Being a leader doesn’t mean you have to bark the loudest,” he said. “You just need to show people that you care about what you are working toward and the people who are helping you get there.”

After graduating with his bachelor’s degree in secondary education and mathematics in 2009, David started teaching math at Massaponax High School in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He’s also coached the baseball team for four years.

In his spare time, David enjoys spending time with his wife, Lydia, and their dog. He also enjoys getting together on the weekends with his brothers in the D.C. area. For New Year’s Eve, he and his wife took a trip to Savannah, Georgia, to visit **Jon Etter '07** and **Andrew Dorgan '09**.

David’s advice for undergraduates is to “take full advantage of all the opportunities Penn State gives you. It is a great place to leave your comfort zone and try something that you never imagined doing. Think about the children you’ve been able to meet through your THON experiences and realize that if you’re having a bad day it is nothing compared to what they’ve already had to go through in their young lives.”

David can be reached at [psblue09@gmail.com](mailto:psblue09@gmail.com).

## Welcome, New Members

**Hadyn Ehrlich**  
Grantville, Pa.

**Frank Lumpkin**  
Newtown, Pa.

**Joshua Godoshian**  
Grosse Pointe  
Woods, Mich.

**Liam McNamara**  
Washington, D.C.

**Alexander Hall**  
Monroeville, Pa.

**Benjamin Miller**  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Samuel Hellman**  
Fairfax, Va.

**Damien Morel**  
Nazareth, Pa.

**Andrew Hughes**  
Basking Ridge, N.J.

**Joseph Sabol**  
Freehold, N.J.



*Parker Rhodes '13, Ryan Herber '15, Tyler Parsels '13, Colin Chapman '14, and Jon Bronstein '14 participate in an intramural basketball game.*

# UNDERGRADUATES CONTINUE TO SHINE IN PHILANTHROPY AND ACADEMICS

## Brothers Raise \$367,452 during THON

Gamma Omega has experienced a very busy spring semester. After collectively spending several thousand hours canning and canvassing for THON, it was a tremendous feeling to be rewarded once again for raising the most money out of all Greek organizations. With a total of \$367,452.77, the brothers of Gamma Omega were able to significantly contribute to the overall total of \$12,374,034.46 raised for the fight against pediatric cancer. We gave up many days and weekends for this cause and are very proud and honored to carry on the tradition that many of you started.



*THON dancers Justin Decarlo '13, Austin McCullum '14, Tyler Injaian '13, Brad Williams '14, and Tyler Parsels '13 perform for the crowd with our Zeta Tau Alpha partners.*

## Chapter Adds 10 New Members

Each semester, our recruitment teams set out in search of individuals who best fit the mold of what it means to be a Tau. This spring, we added 10 new members to our chapter, bringing our active membership to just shy of 100 members. These brothers exemplify the ideals and principles of our fraternity and we are excited to see what they accomplish in the years to come.

## Celebrating Our Accomplishments

Gamma Omega has celebrated many great accomplishments in the past few months. Once again, we placed in the top three for Greek Sing, a feat that has become common in recent years. Academically, our GPA has risen comfortably above a 3.0 due to instilling a stronger standpoint on grades in our new members.

| GREEK ORGANIZATIONS                     |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1. ALPHA TAU OMEGA & ZETA TAU ALPHA     | \$367,452.77 |
| 2. LAMBDA CHI ALPHA & ALPHA SIGMA ALPHA | \$208,429.13 |
| 3. SIGMA CHI & ALPHA OMEGA IFC          | \$239,149.27 |
| 4. ACADIA & GAMMA Phi ZETA              | \$195,897.11 |
| 5. PI KAPPA Phi & ALPHA CHI OMEGA       | \$181,017.09 |

*With the help of our sorority partners, Zeta Tau Alpha, we sealed a first place victory in THON, raising \$367,452.77 for the fight against pediatric cancer.*

Lastly, it would be remiss of me if I did not bring to your attention the positions held by two of our members. We are very proud to have **Lorenzo Massaro '14** (executive vice president) and **Khadyon Reid '14** (vice president of sustainability) serving as members of the IFC executive board. These positions are difficult to obtain and require a lot of time and effort. This is not only a big accomplishment for Lorenzo and Khadyon, but it also sheds a positive light on ATΩ as a whole. We are pleased to be represented by these gentlemen and wish them the best of luck in their respective roles.

## Your Support Is Appreciated

We are so proud of our individual and collective accomplishments this semester. However, accolades are not given but rather earned, and none of it would have been possible without the guidance, support, and advice that so many of you offer. So to you I say thank you. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many of you last semester and hope that even more of you will drop by. As always, you are more than welcome to stop by the chapter house at any time.

Fraternally,  
**Thomas Todd '14**  
Worthy Master  
tqt5043@psu.edu

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Worthy Master  
**Thomas Todd '14**  
Silver Spring, Md.  
tqt5043@psu.edu

Worthy Chaplain  
**Asad Ahmed '14**  
Wayne, Pa.  
aia5278@psu.edu

Recruitment Chairman  
**Greg Alexander '14**  
Bryn Mawr, Pa.  
goa5053@psu.edu

New Member Education  
Chairman  
**Zachary Manchas '14**  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
zem5016@psu.edu

Worthy Marshal  
**Khadyon Reid '14**  
Brooklyn, N.Y.  
knr5112@psu.edu

Worthy Keeper of Annals  
**Greg Alexander '14**  
Bryn Mawr, Pa.  
goa5053@psu.edu

Social Chairman  
**Mark McGee-Pasceri '14**  
Bryn Mawr, Pa.  
mim5475@psu.edu

Worthy Keeper of Exchequer  
**Jason Weingarten '14**  
Villanova, Pa.  
jww5436@psu.edu

Worthy Scribe  
**Dominic Rotella '15**  
Newtown, Pa.  
dar5350@psu.edu

THON Chairman  
**Justin DeCarlo '13**  
Piscataway, N.J.  
jqd5134@psu.edu



# TAU TALK

## REUNIONS

We invite you to visit the house for pledge class reunions or other visits to State College. Please contact **John Frain '89** (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, please contact **Damion Spahr '92** (dspahr@reynoldsconstruction.com) 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](http://www.psutaus.org) website.

## 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.

## 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!

## Share Your Memories and Photos with Us

In preparation for Gamma Omega's 100th anniversary celebration in 2014, we have begun a project to compile a historical transcript of our 100 years at Penn State. This will include your memories, short stories, and photos of our house and the fraternity over the decades. Please contact **Rich Kuegler '89** at [kuegler1@comcast.net](mailto:kuegler1@comcast.net) to submit personal recollections of your time at Gamma Omega.

# ATΩ



# GAMMA GAB

ATΩ Gamma Omega  
c/o Damion Spahr  
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Fredricksburg, VA 22404

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## Mark Your Calendars

### 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

April 4-6, 2014

Nittany Lion Inn

200 West Park Avenue

State College, PA 16803

*More details to come soon.*

