



# A-TAU OBSERVER

ALPHA TAU OMEGA • UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN • FALL 2011

## ALPHA TAU OMEGA IS BACK AT NEBRASKA

### Thank You, Undergraduates

A new era is underway at Gamma Theta. The past few years are in the rearview mirror and ATΩ is getting back to the basics that made it a strong chapter at UNL. The Board of Trustees would like to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the 23 actives that remained committed to ATΩ during the last year. In addition to high academic achievement, these young men worked diligently to change the culture within the chapter and to lay the groundwork for future success.

Specifically, we'd like to spotlight current executive board members **Jeff Hansen '09**, **Rob Pirnie '09**, and **Ted Elliott '09** for their efforts and dedication to ATΩ during the previous 12 months. Finally, Recruitment Chairmen **Jeff Hansen '09** and **Sean O'Brien '09** should be recognized for assembling a pledge class full of leaders, high academic achievers, athletes, and overall impressive young men. For the first time in several years, ATΩ has a geographically diverse pledge class—within the state of Nebraska anyway.

### Founders' Day Brings Alumni Back to Lincoln

We held our annual Founders' Day event at the Wick Alumni Center on September 10 prior to the Fresno State football game. Approximately 60 people were on hand for the tailgate event, which celebrated the return of ATΩ to UNL. Alumni from every decade between 1950 and 2000 were in attendance. We'd like to thank all those who took the time to stop by. Founders' Day 2012 will return in the spring with a date to be announced later this fall.



*ATΩ has successfully returned Gamma Theta Chapter to the Nebraska campus. Josh Mitten '11 and Jake Widick '11 enjoy a country-themed social event.*

### Scholarship Awarded to Upperclassmen

At Founders' Day, the Brian Keech Memorial Scholarship Committee (**Rob Mitchell '77**, **Brad Tolstedt '77**, **Tom Harman '77**, **Bob Dudley '79**, and **Mike Hupp '77**) announced the awarding of \$7,500 in scholarships to the 15 juniors and seniors living in the chapter house this academic year. In addition to their fine academic achievements, these young men have played a vital role in reestablishing Gamma Theta on campus. We thank the Keech Committee for their generosity and for acknowledging the efforts of these young men.

### Initiation Supported by Dedicated Alumni

ATΩ initiation was held November 6 at the Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center on UNL's main campus. We thank all the alumni who lent their support to the new initiates. It's important for the new members to get input from alumni on what it means to be an ATΩ.

### Help Mentor Gamma Theta

Many of you have expressed an interest in becoming more involved in ATΩ. If you have any questions about upcoming events or how you can help out Gamma Theta, feel free to contact the board of trustees at [atonebraska@gmail.com](mailto:atonebraska@gmail.com).

Love and Respect,

**Jon Sevenker '95**

ATΩ Board of Trustees

[jon.sevenker@gmail.com](mailto:jon.sevenker@gmail.com)

## Recruitment Recommendation

If you know of an accomplished young man who is attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is interested in Greek life, please contact our recruitment chairmen.

**Sean O'Brien '10**

(610) 864-6328

**Jeff Hansen '09**

(402) 651-1160

## Undergraduates Help Get ATΩ Back On Its Feet

As you know, the past couple of years have not been easy ones at Gamma Theta. It was apparent that changes—big changes—needed to be made, and it was not a job for the faint of heart. The Gamma Theta executive board is very pleased to report the significant progress we have made over the last year and a half. The changes we are seeing are coming even sooner than we expected and ATΩ is returning to our rightful position as the top fraternity on the UNL campus.

### New Members Join Thanks to Gamma Theta's Strong Reputation

With the support of other remaining actives, the recruitment team was able to sign 32 new members who have all been great additions to the chapter. The new members are a testimonial to the hard work and dedication every single one of our men has given to the chapter at a time when it needed us the most. We thank these young men for taking a chance with us. It is a great tribute to ATΩ's strong alumni support and unbreakable reputation to have such a strong pledge class. We have added a number of legacies and know that many others joined at the recommendation of ATΩ alumni.

### Emphasis on Service, Respect, and Humility

The chapter leaders are treating this year as a fresh start and have been able to instill a culture that we expect to breed success in every area of fraternity life. We are confident this setting will also prepare our brothers for success in life outside of college. Changes have exceeded the obvious and run over into the character building and the development of strong values.

We encourage our members daily to take initiative, show respect and humility, perform selfless acts, and involve themselves in the community. Our new members and underclassmen are being treated with a new level of respect in hopes that it will be returned to the juniors and seniors. This has been essential in helping establish a positive group mentality.

### First Class Guidance from New Housemother

Although it is still early, we believe that the pieces are in place for ATΩ Gamma Theta to be a recurring recipient of True Merit bowls, as was tradition in years past. Our new housemother, Cheryl Draeger, is a great fit for the chapter and has some great ideas that will surely help us continue to move in a positive direction.

We thank you all for the support you have shown over the years and especially recently. Please feel free to stop in whenever it's convenient, meet some of the new guys, and reminisce about the good times at the Old Stone Fortress.

Love and Respect,  
Gamma Theta Executive Board



*Sean Wade, Reed Samson, Brandon Keech, and Jacob Lock with their future brothers. Gamma Theta welcomed 32 new members this fall.*

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

**Jordan Ball**  
*Lincoln, Neb.*

**Sean Mulholland**  
*Deerfield, Ill.*

**Wade Reigle**  
*Albion, Neb.*

**Chase Bassett\***  
*Hastings, Neb.*  
(Brothers,  
**Creighton '05** and  
**Elliot '07 Bassett**)

**Ben Malotte**  
*Maryville, Kan.*

**Zach Smith**  
*North Platte, Neb.*

**Santo Marasco**  
*Omaha, Neb.*

**Collin Schull**  
*Watertown, S.D.*

**Cale Bargess**  
*Omaha, Neb.*

**Connor Matthias**  
*Papillion, Neb.*

**Sam Shaw**  
*Aurora, Neb.*

**Tim Durkin**  
*Omaha, Neb.*

**Michael Meyers**  
*Omaha, Neb.*

**James Van Pelt**  
*Aurora, Neb.*

**Dan Freese**  
*Minnetonka, Minn.*

**Nick Mitchell\***  
*Omaha, Neb.*  
(Father, **Rob Mitchell '78**)

**Sean Wade**  
*Blair, Neb.*

**Clint Hofeldt**  
*Omaha, Neb.*

**Josh Mitten\***  
*Omaha, Neb.*  
(Father, **Michael Mitten '83**)

**Casey Wallin\***  
*Humphrey, Neb.*  
(Father, **Bret Wallin '78**)

**Kaleb Hueftle**  
*Eustis, Neb.*

**Neil Humphrey**  
*Omaha, Neb.*

**Jed Paulsen\***  
*Cozad, Neb.*  
(Father, **Larry Paulsen '80**)

**Jake Widick**  
*Eustis, Neb.*

**Brandon Keech\***  
*Annapolis, Md.*  
(Father, **Brian Keech '78**)

**Chad Pruehs**  
*Sioux City, Iowa*

**Aaron Wiese**  
*Lincoln, Neb.*

**Mitch Kunz**  
*Syracuse, Neb.*

**Michael Radermacher**  
*Egan, Minn.*

**Ben Young**  
*Omaha, Neb.*

**Jacob Lock**  
*Blair, Neb.*

\* Legacy; relative in parentheses

## The Brian Keech Memorial Fund: The Man Behind the Memorial

**Brian Keech '78** is a popular name around the ATΩ Nebraska chapter house. It is a name synonymous with a scholarship award given to achieving brothers and a name familiar to alumni for a man who epitomized the word "brother." Brian passed away far earlier than anyone anticipated. He left behind a family and friends dedicated to keeping his memory alive. **Rob Mitchell '77**, **Brad Tolstedt '77**, **Tom Harman '77**, **Bob Dudley '79**, and **Mike Hupp '77** began the Brian Keech Memorial Fund.



*Brian, his wife, Jennifer, and their children. Their son, Brandon, is a member of ATΩ.*

Since the fund's inception in 1995 the committee has been able to reward 39 undergraduate members of Gamma Theta \$45,900 total for their dedication and merit to the fraternity. "ATΩ is about true merit and what a brother is. Brian was involved in everything, well known, and well liked. He went through life with a huge smile and it was infectious," said Brian's brother-in-law **Bob Dudley '79**.

The decision to create this scholarship was easy. "It seemed like he need-

ed to be remembered and emulated as what a fraternity brother should be like," said **Mike Hupp '77**.

Brian's son, **Brandon**, is now a Gamma Theta pledge. **Brad Tolstedt '77** has remained in contact with Brandon since his father's passing. In a letter to Brandon on his 13th birthday Brad outlined Brian's greatest qualities.

"Your dad went the distance for friends in need, no questions asked. I remember one very late night when my car broke down 20 miles from the ATΩ house. I was stranded. Your dad was in bed and deep asleep. When

I called, he was there. No complaints. He got up and rescued me! He was just like that, always providing assistance, always going the extra mile."

Brian Keech will be remembered by many for his personality, sense of humor, and allegiance to friends and family. Through the scholarship fund, Brian's memory can carry on and influence lives for years to come.

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT FOUNDERS' DAY

The Brian Keech Memorial Scholarship Committee announced at Founders' Day the scholarship winners. All 15 juniors and seniors living in the chapter house received \$500 scholarships. In addition to their fine academic achievements, these young men have played a vital role in reestablishing Gamma Theta on campus.

"The Keech Scholarship is something that every upperclassman in the chapter strives to receive. It is pretty powerful to see our alumni recognizing all of the juniors and seniors who stuck with

the house and ensured that we would be back on campus in a way that only ATΩ can accomplish. I would like to say thank you to all of the Keech Committee members for this extremely generous gesture." -**Jeff Hansen '09**

"After a long period of questioning whether our efforts for the house would ever pay off, receiving this scholarship has really put into perspective how important our work has been. I can't thank the members and contributors of the Keech Committee enough for such a generous reward." -**Ted Elliott '09**

**Jared Becker '09**  
**Joe Dougherty '09**  
**Kyle Ediger '09**  
**Ted Elliott '09**  
**Shane Forney '10**  
**Nate Green '10**  
**Jeff Hansen '09**  
**Britton Hess '09**  
**Zach Hoff '09**  
**Alex Maresch '09**  
**Nate Mattison '09**  
**Sean O'Brien '09**  
**Mike Pfeifer '10**

**Rob Pirnie '09**  
**Reed Samson '09**



## Brother Attributes Success to His Experience As an Alpha Tau Omega Through Hard Work and Dedication, Jeff Torczon '95 Made His Dreams Come True



**Jeff Torczon '95** joined Alpha Tau Omega because he witnessed the friendships and camaraderie his brother, **Kevin Torczon '94**, gained as a brother at the University of Nebraska.

Like Kevin, Jeff, too, made many lasting friendships, but he also gained so much more. "My experience meant a great deal to me," Jeff said. "It really shaped the leadership skills that I have today."

Jeff's experience as a Gamma Theta instilled a confidence in him that he didn't have before, providing him with a skill set to become a great leader. Serving in roles as social chairman and president of the fraternity, Jeff learned how to confidently lead a group of his peers while establishing meaningful bonds.

*(Continued on back page)*

## Jeff Torczon '95

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Jeff graduated with his bachelor's degree in computer science. He worked with Microsoft Consulting Services in software development for various clients in the Southwest. He enjoyed the job, but Jeff's ultimate dream was to own his own company—the challenge of building a company intrigued him.

Through hard work and dedication, Jeff made his dream a reality. In 2002, Jeff founded Infinity Software Solutions Inc., which provides web-based software for human resources automation and employee benefits administration. The company's InfinityHR application is used by hundreds of thousands of users across the world and continues to grow at a rapid pace.

According to Jeff, this success can be attributed to his experience and affiliation as an Alpha Tau Omega member. His advice to undergraduates is to never give up, to follow dreams, and to get involved in as many things as possible. "You never know what those little experiences can lead to."

Jeff and his wife, Sunshine, reside in Scottsdale, Arizona. They have two sons, Graysen, 5, and Grafton, 3, and one daughter, Skylar, 2. Jeff is happy spending time with his children, but in his free time he plays competitive basketball three or four times a week and goes golfing occasionally. Jeff can be reached at [jeff.torczon@infinity-ss.com](mailto:jeff.torczon@infinity-ss.com).

## ALUMNI UPDATE

**Fred L. Egley '36** lives in Norfolk, Neb. He has two sons, James and Tom. Fred enjoys swimming at the local YMCA.

**Alan L. Clem '47** has five children: Andrew, Christopher, Connie, John, and Daniel, and lives in Vermillion, S.D. He enjoys playing golf and tries to keep up with his five grandchildren.

**Doyle Busskohl '48** lives in Norfolk, Neb., with his wife, Jane. They have four children: Steve, Shari, Dave, and Susan. He works for Allied Tour and Travel Arrow Stage Lines. E-mail: [doyle@arrowstagelines.com](mailto:doyle@arrowstagelines.com)

**Duane F. Huenke '50** is retired from the Union Pacific Rail Road. He and his wife, Betty, live in Lakewood, Colo. They have three grown daughters.

**Kenneth Kunes '52** and his wife, Anne, live in Scottsdale, Ariz., where he is the president of Security Reliable Insurance. They have three children: Ken Jr., Leigh Anne, and Jeffrey. E-mail: [kenk@generalsouthwest.com](mailto:kenk@generalsouthwest.com)



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**Nebraska Gamma Theta  
of Alpha Tau Omega  
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**ATTENTION:** *This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 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.*

**John Power '61** is a retired independent insurance agent. He has lived in Geneva, Neb., with his wife, Nancy, since 1984. They have three daughters: Rebecca, Carrie, and Elisabeth. He and his wife, Nancy, travel often and have a timeshare that allows them to go to many places. E-mail: [louise243@windstream.net](mailto:louise243@windstream.net)

**Richard Rodgers'64** is a retired senior security administrator and lives in Burbank, Calif. E-mail: [rdrdgers@charter.net](mailto:rdrdgers@charter.net)

**David A. Drevo '70** owns his own law firm and lives in Lincoln, Neb. He is 60 years old and wonders where the 40 years have gone since he moved into the ATΩ house.

**Larry Heyen '74** is the president for Heyen Tax & Accounting in Milford, Neb. He and his wife, Donna, live in Pleasant Dale. They have two daughters, Mandy and Lindsey. E-mail: [investax@windstream.net](mailto:investax@windstream.net)

**Matthew Donelan '82** owns Gretna Physical Therapy in Gretna, Neb. He and his wife, Debra, live in Elkhorn. They have two sons, Blake and Patrick. E-mail: [Donelan@cox.net](mailto:Donelan@cox.net)

**Ward Reesman '83** is retired from the FBI and now does some consulting for foreign governments and police agencies overseas on terrorism matters. He and his wife, Cheryl, live in Omaha, Neb. They have two children, Matt and Eryn. E-mail: [hinrees@aol.com](mailto:hinrees@aol.com)

**Bernard Inbody '92** works in sales for Forest Laboratories. He and his wife, Pam, adopted twin girls, Sloan and Sienna, from South Korea. They are beautiful, healthy, and turned 5 in August. The family lives in Omaha. E-mail: [Bernie.Inbody@frx.com](mailto:Bernie.Inbody@frx.com)

**Michael Hermesen '96** is a dentist for Heartland Endodontic Specialists in Omaha. He and his wife, Elizabeth, adopted a son, Garrison Paul, in March. E-mail: [mshermesen@hotmail.com](mailto:mshermesen@hotmail.com)

**Matthew Olson '02** is a financial advisor for Stifel Nicolaus. He lives in Lincoln, Neb. E-mail: [olsonm@stifel.com](mailto:olsonm@stifel.com)

**Tyler Shotkoski '07** lives in St. Louis, Mo., where he is a logistics manager for Foresight Energy. E-mail: [tshotkoski@clineres.com](mailto:tshotkoski@clineres.com)