



A-TAU OBSERVER

ALPHA TAU OMEGA • UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN • SPRING 2013

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR GAMMA THETA

Board Applauds Undergraduate Successes and Plans for Future Chapter Needs

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Gamma Theta has continued to perform at a high level since taking home True Merit last August. The chapter ended the fall semester with an all-chapter GPA of 3.17, beating both the all-men's GPA of 2.89 and the all-fraternity GPA of 3.00. This is a testament to the chapter's great recruiting and leadership, including former Chapter President **Joe Dougherty '09**.

TOP CHAPTER ON CAMPUS

We would like to thank all of the outgoing officers for their hard work in not only reestablishing Gamma Theta as a top chapter on campus, but also for continually seeking to improve upon their recent successes. The incoming leadership is determined to keep the chapter moving in the right direction, and we applaud their efforts thus far.

PHILANTHROPIC INVOLVEMENT

One of the chapter's endeavors this semester was the Big Event, a university-wide volunteering project. Around 150 teams/organizations were represented in this event, and Gamma Theta was at the top of the pack in terms of participation. The chapter held its annual alumni golf event, Tau Tee Off, on April 21 and had a great turnout.

SEND YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank the alumni who have helped ATΩ with recruitment over the past couple of years. Because of your efforts, the chapter has consecutively put together several great classes. We are again asking Gamma Theta alumni to e-mail us at atonebraska@gmail.com with the names and contact information of high-quality high school seniors and college freshmen (and even sophomores) who would make good ATΩs.

RECRUITMENT GOALS SET

Recruitment begins early this year, and May 1 is the earliest date bid cards can be handed out. The board has set a goal of 28 pledges for the summer recruitment chairmen and put incentives in place that will emphasize quality over quantity.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

From a big picture standpoint, we continue to assess and identify the needs of our chapter. Like all alumni, we want ATΩ to remain competitive with other top fraternities on campus, so we are exploring the current physical needs of our aging house. We must provide a safe and desirable environment that meets the needs of today's prospective students and our undergraduate brothers.

Thanks to the efforts and commitment of alumni like you, the future of Gamma Theta is bright.

Love and Respect,
Jon Sevenker '95
ATΩ Board of Trustees



Members of the 1988 and '89 pledge classes together before Founders' Day. During the event, the class of '88 announced the establishment of the \$1,000 Responsibility Starts Now scholarship, which will be awarded to a sophomore each year.

More than 100 Gamma Thetas Celebrate Founders' Day

Class of '88 Announces \$1,000 Scholarship

Gamma Theta held its annual Founders' Day event at The Nebraska Club in downtown Lincoln on April 13. More than 100 alumni and actives were in attendance to celebrate the ongoing successes of Gamma Theta, which began with the awarding of True Merit last August.

Chapter President **Jed Paulsen '11** gave an update of the chapter's accomplishments and laid out their plans for the coming year. Recruitment plays a very important role in the success of the

(Continued on page 2)



Gamma Thetas enjoy a delicious buffet during Founders' Day at The Nebraska Club in downtown Lincoln.

More than 100 Gamma Thetas Celebrate Founders' Day

(Continued from page 1)



Undergraduate brothers look at slides of old photos at Founders' Day.

chapter, and Jed encouraged alumni to get their referrals in early this year. More information can be found on the Rush ATΩ tab of the chapter's website at www.atonebraska.org. Recruitment recommendations can be e-mailed to atonebraska@gmail.com.

ATΩ Board of Trustees President **Robert O'Neal '71** reiterated Gamma Theta's need to remain competitive on campus with other fraternities in terms of facilities. He applauded the efforts of the undergraduates and encouraged them to continue seeking ways to make the chapter the best it can be.

The 1988 pledge class celebrated its 25th anniversary since being initiated, with seven members in attendance: **Tom Wolfe '88**, **Michael Stephens '88**, **M. Brandon Freeman '88**, **Rich Meuret '88**, **Lance Carlson '88**, **Van Korell '88**, and **Scott Broekemeier '88**. The class of '88 announced the establishment of the \$1,000 Responsibility Starts Now scholarship, which will be given to a sophomore each year. Vice President **Jake Widick '11** of Eustis, Nebraska, won the inaugural award.

Thank you, again, to everyone who attended and made this year's Founders' Day a success. Photos of the event can be found on the ATΩ website at www.atonebraska.org.

L&R,
ATΩ Board of Trustees

THANK YOU, ALUMNI, FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

We are truly grateful to the following brothers who contributed more than \$3,100 to Gamma Theta last fall. Thank you—your assistance is vital to our success!

Alumni are listed by initiation year under the appropriate giving levels. If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please contact our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661 with any corrections.

Founders Circle *(\$1,000 and above)*

Robert O'Neal '71
Gary D. Gilson '75
Jeff F. Crist '77
Gregg Davidson '79
Lance Carlson '87
Randall Bromm '89
Michael D. Messman '92

Heraldic Cross Club *(\$500 to \$999)*

Henry Damkroger '67
Thomas Schueth '83

Azure & Old Gold Club *(\$250 to \$499)*

Daniel Anderson '70

1865 Society *(\$186.50 to \$249.99)*

White Tea Rose Society *(\$100 to \$186.49)*

Theodore F. Randolph '46
Merle Stalder '47
Claude Berreckman '52
James P. Bonham '61
Earl Scudder '62
John A. Harnly '70

Gamma Theta Supporter *(\$50 to \$99)*

Jeremy J. Colwell
Sidney Salzman '44
Lawrence Wilson '54
Gary Frenzel '56
Charles Huston '57
Knox Jones '78
Marc Johnson '80
Scott Fisher '92
Mark A. Schlothauer '94
Nathan Parsons '98
Christopher Wangsness '98
Brent Taylor '02
Brett H. Lauritsen '03

Gamma Theta Works Hard to Improve

Pursuing True Merit

After winning True Merit last year and five other awards at Congress, the men of Gamma Theta are going above and beyond to make sure we win True Merit again this year. We are also striving to win the Top Chapter award.

Increasing Involvement

One of our goals this year was to be more involved on campus and in the community, and we achieved this by participating in everything we could. We boosted our community service hours and are ranked 13th overall in the Greek community, which is above the IFC ranking for the Big Event. We also participated in a weekly Bible study and are working diligently to raise our overall

chapter GPA. We were ranked eighth out of 26 fraternities at UNL last fall and are working to do better this semester.

Recruitment Success

We experienced a great recruitment last fall, adding 24 new members to our chapter. Since then, we've added three more who were initiated this spring. If you have any recommendations for recruitment this summer, please send them to me, the recruitment chairmen, or any member of the Board of Trustees. We value your input and appreciate all of your help.

Thanks for Your Support

On behalf of the entire chapter, I would like to thank all of our amazing supporters for

ALUMNUS BLESSED WITH LIFETIME FRIENDSHIPS THAT BEGAN AT ATΩ

Q&A with Garrett Smith '73

Q: What attracted you to ATΩ?

A: "I was not actively recruited in the summer, so I went through recruitment week. I felt the most comfortable in the ATΩ house. The house was clean, guys were great and friendly, and I felt at home there."



together at an away football game each year. I'm blessed with lifetime friends that I met in the ATΩ house. In spite of distance and time, these are among my very best friends and I'm grateful for that."

Q: What are some of your favorite memories from your undergraduate years?

A: "Just sitting around and talking with the guys. We called it munging—and we did a lot of munging! We were always laughing, talking, listening to music; just hanging out. There's a unity in a fraternity that you don't get in a dorm. You belong to something and take pride in it."

Q: What degree did you earn, and where do you work now?

A: "I earned my business degree in 1976 and returned to Sioux City to enter the family business, American Pop Corn Company (JOLLY TIME Pop Corn). I figured out during college that it's what I wanted to do as I never took a job interview anywhere else. It's been in our family for 99 years and I'm a fourth generation owner/manager. My goal is to pass it on to the fifth generation."

Q: Did you learn anything that has stuck with you over the years?

A: "If you're going to live with 65 guys, you have to learn how to get along. Growing up is a process and college years are part of that process. I also learned some leadership skills that have helped throughout my life."

Q: What advice can you share with undergraduate members?

A: "Enjoy your experience because it passes so quickly. You have to work hard and study hard, but you also have to have fun and enjoy yourself."

Q: Have you stayed in touch with your brothers?

A: "There are about a dozen of us who stay in close contact via e-mail (especially on Monday mornings in the fall). Now that our kids are raised, we get

Garrett and his wife, Carol, reside in Sioux City, Iowa, and have two sons, Rett and **Alex "Bo" '09**, who is an ATΩ from UNL. Garrett enjoys golf, yard work, and following Nebraska athletics. He can be reached at garretts@jollytime.com.



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Alex Clauson
Bellevue, Neb.

Bellevue West H.S.
Baseball, soccer

Joe Ernst
Omaha, Neb.

Mount Michael H.S.
Basketball, football, track

Ryan Michael
Elkhorn, Neb.

Elkhorn H.S.
Basketball, football, track

Chapter in All Areas

Members Thankful for Support

everything you have done for ATΩ. We would not be where we are today without the tremendous hard work and dedication of our members, the guidance and support of our dedicated Board of Trustees and alumni, and all of the behind-the-scenes help from our Parents' Club and housemother, Cheryl. Please feel free to stop by the Old Stone Fortress anytime. We would love to visit with you!



Love and Respect,
Jed Paulsen '11
Chapter President
jed_p@hotmail.com



Gamma Thetas proudly display their True Merit award at Congress last August.



Executive officers bond during a brotherhood retreat.

WATCH FOR DETAILS

Alumni Tailgate

During a football weekend this fall.

To ensure you're on our e-mail list,
send your contact information to
atonebraska@gmail.com.



A-TAU OBSERVER

**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.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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jed_p@hotmail.com

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Shane Forney '09

Tim Durkin '11

Recruitment Recommendations

Alumni, we value your input in membership selection. Please send your recruitment recommendations to atonebraska@gmail.com or:

Recruitment Chairmen

Kyle Hammitt '11

(402) 981-9359 | khammitt1@cox.net

Brandon Keech '11

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Josh Mitten '11

(402) 201-7338 | jmitten1@gmail.com



Brothers serenade the ladies of Kappa Alpha Theta.