

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Stephen Hill '55



Steve Hill '55

We're very sorry to share the news that **Stephen Hill '55** passed away last November. Stephen was originally from Springfield, Ill., but in his later years, lived in LaGrange. He was part of a great group of guys who became Gamma Zetas from Springfield at that time including **Carl '55** and **Bob Baker '58, Bob Phillips '54, Dick Kurz '56, Paul Hayes '56** and **Dick Walbaum '59**.

He earned his undergraduate degree in commerce and law in 1955 from the University of Illinois and continued his studies in law, passing the Illinois Bar Exam in 1957. At U of I, he also played on the Men's Varsity Tennis Team. In August 1955, he married the love of his life, Jane (Thiem) Hill. He began his career working for Arthur Andersen in Chicago. Over the next 25 years, he held senior financial positions at Prudential Insurance, National Can Corporation, Marshall Fields (Macy's) and CF Industries. Stephen enjoyed his work. Near the end of his career, he started his own corporate financial advisory firm, specializing in industrial revenue bond financing.



Gamma Zeta News

Gamma Zeta Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity

University of Illinois

www.atoillinois.com

October 2014

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE



Jack Klues

Hello Gamma Zetas,

2014 has been both a challenging and rewarding year for ATO Gamma Zeta.

We've made huge progress on the renovation of the public areas of the Chapter House and our historic Bechstein Grand Piano and in improving the culture of our undergraduate membership. Our guys jumped 20 spots in the fraternity GPA rankings, and our City of Urbana inspection went better than it has in years last week with nearly every outstanding item being cleared while the inspector was onsite. We have also had unprecedented support from alumni with over 100 Gamma Zeta alumni serving our chapter in many ways. University of Illinois Chancellor Dr. Phillis Wise has just accepted our invitation to visit the Chapter House for dinner on January 21, 2015.

We've also had some setbacks, but the undergraduate membership is responding in a very positive way. They are fulfilling their sanctions as promised, taking care of our Chapter House and representing our fraternity as we would all expect ... better than we have seen in many years. See the articles included about **Cary McMillan's '80** visit to the house earlier this fall and the community service event that the undergrads supported organized by **Dante Ciccone '02** this past August. I believe that we've turned the corner, and I encourage all of you to stop by for a visit at Homecoming or whenever you are in town to see for yourself.

Just a few additional comments ...

On behalf of all Gamma Zeta alumni, I want to take the opportunity to thank **Jeff Piper '00** and **Jeff Eversden '05** for their many years of service to the ATO Gamma Zeta House Corporation as president and treasurer, respectively. They did an incredible job of keeping things rolling when many other alumni had faded away, and they have tirelessly stayed involved as we've brought new alumni volunteers into leadership over the last couple of years. I'm only now beginning to appreciate all of the work that they did and time that they have spent supporting our organization for so long. THANKS, Jeff and Jeff!!

I'd also like to welcome some new alumni into leadership positions on the Board of Trustees and House Corporation. **Norm Bilsbury '92** has recently moved back to Champaign and has joined the BOT as a local representative. **Mark Faber '75** will be transitioning into Jeff Eversden's treasurer role and overseeing our outsourcing of much of the financial management to Alpha Management. **Steve Mathias '07** will be supporting Mark. **Jeff McGill '73** has volunteered to help oversee our recently outsourced food service operation with Upper Crust. **Drew O'Neil '14** has also volunteered to support **Greg Scott's '76** HC team. **Craig Nadborne '78** will be leading our alumni networking events. **Dave Mazurek '02** will be leading a new career development focus in support of our undergraduate members, and **Dante Ciccone '02** will be driving our community service efforts. Thanks to all of these guys for stepping up to lead these key areas!!

See you at Homecoming on October 25! Go Illini!!

Jack Klues '77

Chairman, ATO Gamma Zeta Board of Trustees

kluesjack@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Homecoming - October 25, 2014

8:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Brunch at the Chapter House featuring our new food service, Upper Crust

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM – Ceremony at Chapter House

Awarding of **Timson, Clausing, Simonds, Heldman** and **Philbrick** Scholarships

Dedication of newly renovated Chapter Room, Study Room and Dining Room

Unveiling of newly restored, historic Gamma Zeta Bechstein Grand Piano.

Recognition of '84s and '84.5s celebrating their 30th reunion and '54s celebrating their 60th reunion



'63s at Homecoming 2013

4:00 PM – Postgame Victory Celebration, cash bar and hot appetizers

ALUMNI RELATIONS

Hello Guys,



As Director of Alumni Relations, I'm working hard to keep all of you connected with each

other and our undergraduate members and to make new connections with other Gamma Zetas ... who I learn every day have much in common and enjoy getting together whether we were in the house at the same time or 30 or more years apart (see article in this edition about **Larry Austermiller '61** and **Dan Blaho '90** who met up in Tbilisi, Ga.).

So, help me help you ... Please do the following:

- “Like” our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AtoGammaZetaIllinois>
- “Join” our LinkedIn Group <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Alpha-Tau-Omega-University-Illinois-96736/about>
- Email me your email address (daneluhrsen@gmail.com) if you are not already getting our monthly eNewsletters
- Send me your news, links and pictures ... especially when you are getting together with other Gamma Zetas

Hope to see you at Homecoming on October 25.

Thanks!!

Dane Luhrsen, Gamma Zeta '77
Director of Alumni Relations, Editor of Gamma Zeta News
daneluhrsen@gmail.com

Next ATO Gamma Zeta Chicagoland Networking Event



Dr. Michael Terry '94 shows his Stanley Cup Championship Rings at ATO event on September 5, 2014, in Chicago

We've initiated a series of very successful ATO Gamma Zeta networking events in Chicago this year. Featured guests have included **Tom Tunney '77**, owner of The Ann Sather Restaurants and Alderman of Chicago's 44th Ward, and **Cary McMillan '80**, CEO of True Partners Consulting and member of the McDonald's Corporation Board of Directors. **Mike LaVitola '09**, Co-Founder and CEO, Foxtrot Ventures; **Kyle Cushing '11**, COO, ClearNDA; **Stephen Schmakel '89**, COO and Co-Founder, Virtue Cider; and **Charley**

Stone '98, Co-Founder, Bake Sale, all presented their innovative new businesses at our “Tau Tank” themed event.

Our next event will have an ATO Chicagoland Real Estate Theme and will be as follows:

Date: November 14, 2014

Time: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Chicago Club, 81 East Van Buren Street, Chicago, IL 60605

Host: **Cary McMillan '80**

Theme: Gamma Zetas in Chicago Real Estate

Featured Guests:

Steve Stratton '73, Regional Managing Director, Jones Lang LaSalle

Gerry Kostelny '75, President, InSite Real Estate

Bill Barry '77, EVP Draper and Kramer

Paul Lundstedt '82, Executive VP at CBRE

Bill Rolander '83, Principal, The John Buck Company

Moderator:

Craig Nadborne '78, Sr. Mg. Dir., Bradford Allen

Cost: \$50

Register:

Contact **Craig Nadborne '78** at CraigNadborne@gmail.com

HOUSE RENOVATION UPDATE

Last weekend, **Neil “Brez” Bresnahan ’80** and I attended some basketball and football festivities. In between, we stopped by Gamma Zeta and met Worth Master **Jimmy Kowalczyk ’16**.

The last time I had been in the House, it was a disaster. Well, Neil and I were shocked how great it looked on Saturday a.m. The living rooms have returned to greatness, the lower level study rooms have been expanded and the Chapter Room was awesome.

I was stunned at how functional the dining rooms have become ... filled with practical



Jimmy K. and Brez

furniture, clean and neat. And the new dining room was rebuilt. Gone were the old windows and doors which had been replaced with a more functional and efficient wall, window and door. Really great.

And Jimmy told us of all the process improvements made to the pledgeship, the end of hazing and the return of respect for the brothers and the house itself.

I go to every football game and will be stopping by every time now. You should, too.

Finally, I can't thank the guys who worked

and continue to work on the turnaround of Gamma Zeta. Thanks so much !

As a former House Corp President, I would be proud to donate to Gamma Zeta if asked again.

By the way, Neil and I stopped by Pikes to drop off a ticket. Despite being new, the house was a PIT!

Well done. Let's shake off the noise from the "penalties," which sound minor to me.

See you in Champaign.

—Cary “CMac” McMillan ’80



CMac and Brez

AWARD CEREMONY

C. Donald Ainsworth '39 Awarded Diamond Certificate



On May 20, 2014, **Jack Donovan ’77**, **Doug Clark ’86**, **Scott Wagner ’79**, **Jeff Clark ’83**, **Ryan Roth ’95**, **Mike Houlihan ’70** and **Dane Luhrsen ’77** gathered with over 30 other St. Louis area ATOs to recognize **Don Ainsworth ’39** for 75 years of membership in ATO and membership in the Diamond Circle. Terry Turman, ATO Foundation CEO, made the presentation.

Don received a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing from the University of Illinois, though he claims that he actually majored in intramurals and is very proud to have finished in the top three in the individual intramural all-points competition. After graduation, he

became an FBI agent. He left the FBI in 1944 to enlist in the U.S. Navy and served as a cryptographer in Hawaii and Guam where he participated in a group of ATO servicemen from around the country.

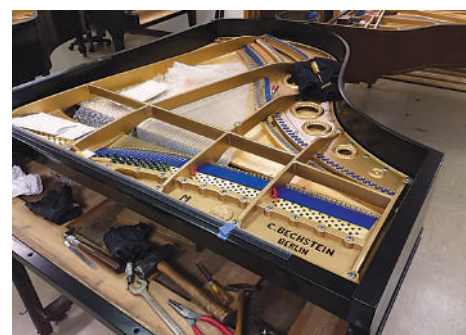
After the service, Don attended and graduated from the Washington University School of Law in 1948 where he was elected student body president and served as chairman of the Ethics Committee. Don then began a long and illustrious career in the insurance business, ultimately retiring from the Safety National Casualty Corporation where he served as Executive VP. He also served as Insurance Commissioner for the State of Missouri.

Don has been and continues to be active, loyal and a generous supporter of ATO and Gamma Zeta. He's been a longtime member and one of the founders of the St. Louis ATO Alumni Association. Just this past spring, he made a significant donation to the Gamma Zeta Piano Restoration Fund. For years, Don made donations to support the Gamma Zeta Intramural program. THANKS, Don, for your 75 years of membership, leadership and service to ATO.

Note: Special thanks to **Jeff Piper ’00** and **Jeff Eversden ’05** for the vision to get this project off the ground, **Dave Krug ’95** and **Greg Scott ’76** for stepping in and driving it to completion, **Art Hasse ’61** for donating the new furniture for the Study Room, **Nobel Olsen ’77** for leading the fundraising effort and all of the '77s who contributed over \$400,000 to make this happen.

Piano Restoration Update

I visited The Piano People in Champaign on September 21, 2014, to check up on the status of our historic Bechstein grand piano's



Our piano with its new sound board, restored frame and case and new “Bechstein Blue” felt

restoration process. The piano is looking great and will be ready for Homecoming on October 25. We still need some additional funds to pay for restoration; please donate at atoillinois.com/index.php/ways-to-give/piano-fund or send a check made payable to the ATO House Corporation to Dane Luhrsen, 1944 Hampton Drive, Wheaton, IL 60189.

GAMMA ZETA STARS RECOGNIZED

Bob “Chick” Doster ‘48 and William “Bill” Erickson ‘50 to Be Inducted Into the Illinois High School Hall of Fame.

Twenty-five basketball stars will be inducted into the Illinois High School Hall of Fame and Museum October 18 at the Hilton Garden Inn at Champaign, including two Gamma Zeta basketball stars: **Bob “Chick” Doster ‘48** and **William “Bill” Erickson ‘50**.

Chick Doster led Decatur to the 1945 Illinois State Basketball Championship. He was the tournament’s leading scorer with 96 points in four games, including a victory over Champaign for the title. He went on to star for the Illini where he finished third in the Big 10 scoring his first season.

Bill Erickson led Rockford East High School to the final 16 of the state basketball tournament as a junior and fourth place as a senior.

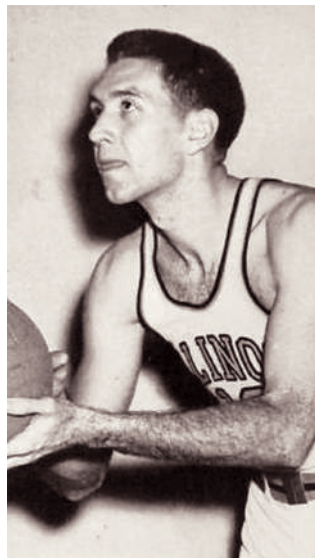
As an Illini, Bill played in every single game during his four-year career and was a starter for the final three. In his junior season, the Fighting Illini won the Big Ten Conference title and advanced to the NCAA Tournament where they finished third.

Erickson was named to the All-Big Ten team and was dubbed a consensus Second Team All-American.

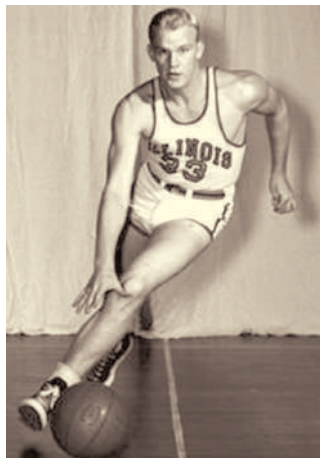
Bill and Chick join **Walt Jr. Kirk ‘46**, **Bill Small ‘63** and **Bruce Brothers ‘56** who were previously inducted into the Hall of Fame, giving Gamma Zeta a complete starting five.

Dr. Steve “Jiggs” Lamb ‘75 Named Physician of the Year by the Fairview Hospital

Jiggs was presented the 2014 Physician of the Year Award by the Fairview Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic Hospital. What made this special was that he was the first urologist and only fifth surgeon to receive the award. In



Bob “Chick” Doster ‘48



Bill Erickson ‘50

addition, he was selected by his peers from a staff of 940 physicians.

The certificate he was presented stated the following:

“Physician of the Year Award is hereby presented to Steven A. Lamb M.D. with the sincere appreciation of his colleagues and associates and in grateful recognition of his loyal and dedicated service to the practice of medicine, Fairview Hospital, and the employees and patients we serve.”

Dave “Luigi” Pesevento ‘75 and his wife Nancy were pleased to share this evening with Steve and his family as it was a well-deserved award for 30 years of service.

Bill “BB” Barry ‘77 Inducted into the Taylorville High School Sports Hall of Fame

BB graduated from Taylorville High School in 1973. He was a three-sport star who was an All Mid-State Conference quarterback in 1972, team MVP on the Tornadoes basketball team and shortstop for the baseball team in 1973. However, he was inducted into the Hall of Fame as a “Friend of Sports” for his generous support of Taylorville

athletics for many years as a contributor to the Tornado Open Golf Outing and many area philanthropies. Gamma Zetas **Dane Luhrsen ‘77**, **Bill “Buckets” Ganey ‘75** and **Bruce “Carp” Barry** were in Taylorville to help BB celebrate his induction. Another brother, **Dan “Dog” Barry ‘84**, is also a Gamma Zeta.

As an Illini, BB continued his athletic prowess, leading Gamma Zeta intramural teams

to many championships in football, basketball and softball. He graduated with Highest Honors and was awarded the Bronze Tablet for graduating in the top 5% of his Illini class.

BB continues to serve Gamma Zeta on the Board of Trustees as VP of Development.

Jeff Solaro ‘04.5 Wins Excellence in Pro Bono and Public Service Award

Jeff Solaro ‘04.5 of Daley Mohan Groble received an award at the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Fifteenth Annual Award Ceremony for *Excellence in Pro Bono and Public Interest Service*. Through the Federal Settlement Assistance Program, Jeff represented a client who initially



Jeff Solaro ‘04.5 with Chief Judge Ruben Castillo and Judge James Holderman

sued her union for failing to represent her after she was terminated by her employer.

Jeff amended the complaint to file a Breach of Duty of Fair Representation under the LMRA against the union and a breach of the collective bargaining agreement against her employer security company. Judge James F. Holderman presented the award and noted that Jeff’s work in obtaining video was key to leading to the settlement. The union agreed to reinstate her with full benefits and seniority.

“We are proud of Jeff and his pro bono work”, noted Dan Mohan, Managing Partner at Daley Mohan Groble. “The District Court’s pro bono program provides quality legal representation for those who cannot afford

to hire a law firm and, at the same time, gives our attorneys valuable trial experience before the judges of our district. We plan to continue to participate in the program going forward.”

Jeff is serving ATO Gamma Zeta as VP of Membership.



Jiggs and Luigi ‘75s



Dane Luhrsen ‘77, Bill “Buckets” Ganey ‘75, BB and Bruce “Carp” Barry ‘80

STARS CONTINUED

Art Hasse '61 Receives 2014 Goodwill Legacy Award



Art Hasse '61 was honored as the 2014 Goodwill Industries Legacy Partner Award recipient. Kentwood Office Furniture has helped cultivate change for individuals and our communities through the power of work. For decades,

Art Hasse, President and CEO of Kentwood Office Furniture, and his entire team have invested in Goodwill through employee volunteering, financial contributions, donation initiatives and the hiring of Goodwill program participants.

“What I like about Goodwill is that Goodwill takes people who are really struggling in the economy, struggling to find a job or may have some barriers to employment, and they work with them, develop them and train them to get a job. These workers become productive members of society. They put people to work rather than placing them on welfare.”

Art has also been very generous with ATO Gamma Zeta as he donated furniture for our renovated study room. Congrats and THANKS, Art!!

Coach Mike Small '88 Named Illini Coach of the Year



Mike Small '88

Coach **Mike Small '88** and the University of Illinois men's golf team each earned an end-of-the-year honor from the UI Division of Intercollegiate Athletics on Wednesday.

The squad is the 2013-14 Team of the Year, while Small is the 2013-14 Coach of the Year, voted on by UI head coaches and athletic administrators.

The Illini earned their seventh consecutive berth in the NCAA tournament last month, the longest streak for a northern school. They finished fifth overall.

Small has been with the program for 14 seasons and has led the squad to the national tournament nine times in 13 years. The Illini golf team and Mike are off to another great start this school year with wins in their first two tourneys and a #1 NCAA ranking!

ALUMNI UPDATES

Mike Anastasia '88 Leads House Service Weekend



Mike Anastasia '88 and **Greg Scott '76**, House Corporation President, put together a list of projects for the undergrads to do around the house in order to fulfill sanctions. Mike supervised onsite and undergrad **Parker Pevitz '16** helped corral the troops. They had a productive weekend as they continue to make the house look better than it has in years. Thanks, guys!!

Matt Jones '92: No More Empty Chairs

Guys,

There is a great article written by **Matt Jones's '92** wife and a former House Sweetheart, Nicole (Dadant) Jones, in the link to the right. The struggle they are going through is tragic but full of hope. Maybe we could spread the word (they deserve it).

—**Dave Krug '95**

Melba!



'80s **Mike Barrett, Dan Touhy, Mark Everett, Cary McMillan, Barry Booth, Duane McAllister, Jim Cavoto, John Aymond** and **Uwe Blab** practice "Melba" for their upcoming performance at Homecoming.

Mini Reunion



Dane Luhrsen '77, Robb Rugg '79, John Aymond '80 and **Mark Everett '80** visit with **Robb** when he traveled from California to Illinois this summer.



Matt '92 and Nicole Jones and family

Read More:

<http://m.huffpost.com/us/entry/5883930>

Larry Austermiller '61 and Dan Blaho '90 Connect in Tbilisi, Georgia



*Dan and Larry and a couple of
Dan's boys in Tbilisi*

Note ... **Larry Austermiller '61** noticed in a Gamma Zeta News item that **Dan Blaho '90** was working and teaching in Tbilisi, Georgia (that's the country of Georgia ... think Black Sea, not Lake Lanier). Coincidentally, Larry's son and family are working there as well. So, when Larry took a visit to see his family this fall, he decided to look up his ATO Gamma Zeta brother on the other side of the world.

Here's Larry's report ...

Had not had a chance to connect with Dan Blaho here in Tbilisi, Georgia, due to our mutual schedule issues. Learned this a.m. that our granddaughter was going to a soccer practice at school where Dan is the new "Director." Picked out from crowd who I assumed was Dan and approached him with a "Ruh Ra Rega" and received an "Alpha Tau Omega" reply, so knew I had ID'd the right guy!

Despite our nearly 30-year age difference, we had a great conversation comparing various ATO connections/experiences. I introduced Dan and his lovely wife and three boys to my daughter-in-law. A great networking (personally, our son/daughter-in-law are very involved in expatriate community here and will "bring in" Dan's family) and professional (Dan is very interested in a joint extracurricular program between the two schools our daughter-in-law brought to his attention) opportunity, so I am very happy we all met. The photo of us together demonstrates a small world situation and the "ties that bind" mentality we have despite age/time differences.

It is clear that Dan is doing a great job with his school (QSI) and has made a positive mark in just his first six or seven weeks on the job! Another testimony to whatever intangible benefit we all took away from our Gamma Zeta experiences ... some of which are best left undocumented ... but all part of the "education" we received while at 1101.

This is a bit long-winded, but this is my way of saying thank you for your attention to detail and connecting the Tbilisi "dots" that made this happen.

Larry Austermiller '61
September 14, 2014



Chris Kenessey '97 on the summit of Mt. Elbrus

Chris Kenessey '97 Climbs for Dwankhozi Hope

This past August, **Chris Kenessey '97** set out to climb to the summit of the tallest mountain in Europe, Mt. Elbrus. Not impressed yet? Mt. Elbrus towers 18,510 feet above the earth, which is over 4,000 feet higher than our own Mt. Rainier.

Still need some convincing? How about this: Chris is climbing to raise money for Dwankhozi Hope. This is the THIRD mountain he has climbed to support DH. His first two expeditions raised \$11,000 to help construct school buildings, and this latest fundraiser raised another \$11,000 for Dwankhozi Hope! With this being his third mountain climb fundraising expedition, he's raised over \$20,000 total for Dwankhozi! Great work, Chris!!!

Last Tau Standing



*Last Tau Standing
Trophy to be
displayed at
Chapter House*

For the first time, ATO Gamma Zeta is sponsoring an NFL football "Survivor" pool which we're calling the First Annual "Last Tau Standing" pool. Entrants pick a single NFL team to win each week. They can only pick a particular team once during the season. The last Tau to lose a pick during the season wins the pot, which will be split 50/50 with the winner and the ATO Gamma Zeta historic Bechstein piano restoration fund. With over 60 entrants in our initial pool, the winner will be splitting a pot that is over \$6,000 in total!! In addition, **Paul Dioguardi '95**, owner of Hickory House Ribs in Aspen and Parker,

Colo., has sweetened the pot and volunteered to ship 10 racks of his delicious BBQ ribs to the winner for their Super Bowl party. THANKS, Paul!! Finally, we'll have a standing trophy on display at the Chapter House recognizing each year's winners of what we hope to be an annual event. After the first four weeks of the season, all of our entrants are still in the running; 34 of our teams do not yet have a loss, and **Stan Nord '77** is our overall leader based upon the point spread differential tiebreaker. Good luck to all of the entrants and thanks for your donations to the piano fund!!

Dave Mazurek '02 is Up to Utter Nonsense



Dave Mazurek '02

Dave, we hear that you are up to some “utter nonsense.” What’s that all about?

Earlier this year, I created a card game with Tim Swindle (U. of Illinois Sigma Chi '02) called Utter Nonsense. It's a game where players

combine accents with outrageous phrases to create sayings that are just plain ridiculous.

How did you get the idea for the game?

Tim and I started playing a similar game 11 years ago that was originally introduced to us by **Matt Katsaros (Gamma Zeta '02)** and his wife Stacy. In January, we decided to iterate on that concept and created Utter Nonsense.

Give us some examples of how it's played.

Accent Cards consist of speech patterns like Chicagoan, British, Redneck, Valley Girl, Robot, etc. Phrase Cards are short sayings that range from witty to outrageous. Once an Accent Card is revealed for the round, players select one Phrase Card from their hand of seven and say it in the accent indicated. Sometimes phrases pair well with the accent, but for the most part they don't – and that's Utter Nonsense.

Who might enjoy Utter Nonsense (i.e., who is your target market)?

Utter Nonsense is for anyone with a politically incorrect sense of humor.

You brought the game to market on Kickstarter. Fill us in. How does it work?

Kickstarter is a crowdfunding platform for creative projects. It's just like any other retail website, only consumers (i.e., “backers”) place pre-orders for projects that haven't been manufactured yet. Project creators use the sales proceeds to fund their first production run, which reduces the financial risk associated with inventory. If a project creator doesn't get enough pre-orders to achieve their funding goal, backers get their money returned, whereas if the goal is reached, backers are the first get the product.

How do we get involved with this Utter Nonsense?

You can become a backer of Utter Nonsense by going to Kickstarter at the following site:



<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/timswindle/utter-nonsense-the-inappropriate-accent-game>

If you like the game, back it and share the website with your friends and family.

You can contact us through the Utter Nonsense Kickstarter website or at utternonsensegame@gmail.com.

How is it going so far? When should we expect to see this on the market? Can we get it now?

Tim and I are trying to raise \$15,000 and are nearly 50% of the way there after our first week. The Utter Nonsense Kickstarter page is the only place to get the game at this time. It will ship ~60 days after the campaign ends.

Is Utter Nonsense just a hobby or do you see this as a long-term deal?

Utter Nonsense is a passion project, but one that I'm fully committed to making a reality. Aside from Utter Nonsense, I have a full-time career in commercial real estate development that I will continue to be engaged in.

Good luck with Utter Nonsense! Now, tell us a little about your college and ATO experience?

I thought Illinois would provide the best overall college experience, an opinion that was heavily influenced by **Joe Walsh (Gamma Zeta '02)** who is one of my best high school friends. It's funny how a 17-year-old's priorities are established, I thought it was important to have a wingman when venturing away from home for the first time. Looking back, it's one of the best decisions I've ever made.

What was your rush experience like? Why did you choose ATO?

Joe Walsh was also the one who introduced me to ATO. I had no clue what the Greek system was all about and had no intention of joining a fraternity. I remember walking back to the dorms after accepting our bids on the last day of fall rush, asking Joe, “What did we just sign up for?” Little did I know that the

next semester would form bonds with a group of guys that I'd be friends with for the rest of my life.

What are some of your favorite memories of your ATO experience?

Events at the house such as Outhouse and Taulloween were always good times, and of course Walk-Out in New Orleans was ridiculous. That said, one of the incredible things about living with 100+ guys is that any moment had the potential to become a memory, and there was always something to do.

You were a varsity athlete ... maybe even the last I-Man that Gamma Zeta has had. Was it difficult to balance school, the fraternity and varsity sports?

Preregistration and test files ... Seriously though, I believe that anything is manageable if you attack your top priorities sequentially and reset those priorities as necessary.

Would you recommend a fraternity experience to others?

I absolutely recommend it and think the only reason it's not more prevalent is awareness – just educate the freshman on the upside of joining.

What did you do toward a career after professional baseball and what are you doing now?

I've been working in commercial real estate since baseball ended and currently develop senior housing communities for a real estate investment company in Chicago.

Beyond your involvement with Utter Nonsense, tell us a little bit about your personal life now.

The best byproduct of going to U of I is the friendships that are retained because so many people move to Chicago after college. There is a strong ATO contingent in Chicago real estate, and I spend most of my free time traveling and partaking in snow and water sports with the '02s and '02.5s.

Last question ... Do you ever think about maybe learning the knuckler and making a baseball comeback?

I am definitely at peace with baseball. I think the next time I pick up a ball will be challenging **Kevin Kennedy (Gamma Zeta '02)** to see if one of us can throw a softball across the Chicago River at next year's MS Walk charity post-party at Lizzie McNeil's.



In this Issue...

- *We Want You Home for Homecoming!*
- *Chapter Readies the House for Fall*
- *ATOs Reunite Around the World*
- *For One Alum, It's All Utter Nonsense!*

Gamma Zeta's Moms, Alumni and Undergrads Team Up to Support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society



Dante Ciccone '02 with 22-month-old cousin Danica who is currently battling a rare form of leukemia

We recently received a nice thank you and acknowledgement letter from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society addressed to our undergraduate president Jimmy Kowalczyk for ATO's donation of \$6,360. This donation is a direct result of the silent auction that our undergraduate members coordinated at Mom's Day last spring. THANKS to all of our ATO moms who participated in that event and made generous donations.

Also, **Dante Ciccone '02**, **Joseph Patrevito '02.5** and **Justin Ross '02** were all members of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Poker Run Organizing Committee for the

fourth straight year and played key leadership roles in ensuring the success of the event this past August ... an event that raised a record \$87,000 for the society. In their four years of leadership, they have raised \$245,000 ... \$21,000 of that has come directly from Gamma Zetas. **Charlie DeFranco '16**, **Christian Barron '17** and **Parker Pevitz '16**, all ATO Gamma Zeta undergrads, volunteered and helped support Dante, Joe and Justin on the day of the event.

LLS helps blood cancer patients live better, longer lives:

- In the 1960s, a child's chance of surviving leukemia was 3%; today,

90% can expect to survive into their adulthood.

- Since the 1960s, Hodgkin's lymphoma patients' survival rates have more than doubled to 88%.

Amazing breakthroughs are happening every day as a result of support from the money raised at events like the Poker Run.

This was a great example of ATO Gamma Zeta parents, alumni and undergrads coming together to support a great cause. We hope to build upon this fantastic example in the years to come and do it even bigger next time.

Awesome job, guys!!

RGS Golf Outing Wrap-Up

Note: **Steven Spychalski '96** and **Matt Massucci '96** started the R. Gregory Swedo Foundation in memory of Gamma Zeta brother **Greg Swedo '96** who was tragically killed in a hit-and-run accident in November 2000. The foundation funds scholarships honoring the schools Greg attended, Fremd High School and the University of Illinois. Here's a wrap-up sent in by Matt regarding this August's golf outing ...

We wrapped up another successful R. Gregory Swedo Foundation (www.gregoryswedo.com) Golf Outing in August (our 13th event). We had an impressive roster of golfers, sponsors, volunteers and families in attendance. Specifically, we had over 160 golfers, 15+ volunteers and another 20+ families at this year's Golf Outing & BBQ. We raised nearly \$11,000 for the RGS Foundation!

In the 13 years of the event, we've now raised over \$200,000 and have awarded nine scholarships.

As usual, there was a strong Gamma Zeta presence: over 30 golfers (representing 15 of the foursomes). Gamma Zetas also were responsible for nearly half of the corporate sponsors (Hirewell, Sayers, William A.



Chris Crawford '96 and Eric Handley '97

Randolph, Energy.me, Brian Welch/State Farm, Scott Augustine/Derse and CMC Advisory Group). Unfortunately, it's been several years since a Gamma Zeta has won the event, but **John Bucklar's ('96)** team did finish second after winning a four-way shootout. We had ATOs ranging from '95s to 2013s. It was a great event, and we'd love to get an even bigger turnout next year. Next year's event is already on the books for August 15, 2015.

—Matt Massucci '96