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Palmer

THE MAGAZINE OF ALPHA TAU OMEGA FRATERNITY • SPRING 2004



IMPACT

TAUS FIND PURPOSE WHILE GIVING
TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

Life Loyal Taus

You may have noticed the subtle message on the cover of this issue of the *Palm*. Clearly, being a member of the Life Loyal Tau program is producing additional benefits. More on the "nuts and bolts" of this decision in a minute. First, I want to remind you of the impact on being a Tau.

I recently had the opportunity to be a part of a Colonization induction ceremony for our University of Georgia ATO Colony. Around 100 people were in the Athens Country Club to either watch or take part in the brief ceremony, including Alpha Beta alumni and parents of current Colony members. Suggesting the men are the crème of the crop of students at Georgia is a bit cliché, so I won't suggest that...but you get my point. Saying these guys were pumped may also be cliché, but they were, in fact, pumped....about being a part of something new that they were creating and at the same time being a part of something old and well established; about their soon-to-be brothers, who they said made their campus experience much stronger; about the alumni who have dedicated much time and effort to help redevelop their Chapter. Even about the passing of the gavel at the end of the evening. It was clear the 39 men who now make up the ATO Colony at Georgia are beginning to understand what is difficult to describe, the power of fraternity. What was also clear that night was how ATO continues to enrich the lives of Alpha Beta alumni who were there.

A lot of changes take place on commencement day including, for many, the start of a slow dissipation of visible passion for ATO. Another cliché, out of sight, out of mind seems to apply. Except, when you have an event like the one at the Athen's Country Club. The most hard-hearted ATO alumnus would have had a difficult time not being encouraged by what he was hearing from the Colony members that night.

What's the difference? I'm not sure. However, I do know that those ATOs who remain involved either through volunteer service at their chapter or another ATO chapter and/or who make a financial contribution, regardless of amount, consistently say the benefits of membership continue. The applicable cliché goes something like, "I stayed involved to give back to the Fraternity, but it continues to give me more than I can ever give back."

The Life Loyal Tau Program is one more way we are reaching out to ATOs who want to stay connected. Honestly, the start of Life Loyal Tau was partly a business decision. The *Palm* is not cheap. Currently it is sent to nearly 100,000 "mailable" alumni. Because the IRS restricts the ATO Foundation from making any financial grants to the *Palm*, the entire cost of the magazine is picked up by undergraduate dues. But Life Loyal Tau is not just about money. It is one more way to pay more attention to those ATOs who want to stay connected.

The Alpha Beta alumni who are helping the new Georgia Colony are certainly loyal ATOs regardless of whether they are members of the Life Loyal Tau program. There are more than 1,000 loyal ATOs who are volunteering with undergraduate chapters and even more loyal Taus who annually support the ATO Foundation. You can be loyal to your alma mater without being a member of its alumni association. However, many of our most dedicated volunteers and donors are also members of Life Loyal Tau. The challenge is helping people stay involved with ATO, and, at the same time, being able to provide the information and encouragement to want to stay involved. Life Loyal Tau provides the best of both.



Wynn R. Smiley, Chief Executive Officer

ATO palm

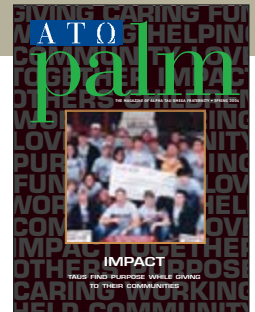
Volume CXXIV, Number 1, Spring 2004

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Publishing Continuously since 1880. The *ATO Palm* is the official publication of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity.

Membership:

The Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity is a participating member in the National Interfraternity Conference, the Fraternity Executives Association, the College Fraternity Editors Association and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. "Alpha Tau Omega" and "ATO" are registered trademarks of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity.



Tennessee-Martin Taus and Alpha Omicron Pi celebrate the money they raised for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

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Life Loyal Tau fulfills alumni needs



Lorenzer Jones, Mercer '51, recently realized the importance of keeping connected to his ATO brothers. Like many alumni, he had lost contact with his ATO brothers for some time. That's exactly why he decided to become a Life Loyal Tau last month.

"You can drift away when you get wrapped up in starting a family and your careers and so forth," he said. "But it's like family, because sometimes you don't do a very good job of keeping in contact with them but they are still very close. We really should keep up our contacts."

That's precisely why the Life Loyal Tau program was developed in 2000. To help continue developing your ATO relationships, Life Loyal Tau keeps alumni in contact with other ATOs via a lasting connection with the Fraternity. Life Loyal Tau members are able to continue to foster bonds of brotherhood through opportunities like special Life Loyal Tau receptions at events like ATO Congress and discounts for ATO National events.

Jones re-told one particular story that symbolizes the need to keep ATO relationships strong and healthy. When he began working he met a man that went on to become one of his closest friends. They connected through work, clubs and various other similar activities. After 50 years, the two finally discovered that they were both ATOs. There is clearly the need for a way to keep in contact with the ATO brothers that many of us hold so dear, and Life Loyal Tau fills that need by publishing lists of new Life Loyal members in the *ATO Palm* and keeping you connected with the Fraternity.

The Life Loyal Tau program is a growing network of ATO alumni that want to make sure ATO continues to be an important part of their lives, and that it continues to shape the lives of young men for years to come. When you pledged ATO you made a commitment to continue to live out the principles and ideals of the Fraternity, and by becoming a Life Loyal Tau, you do just that.

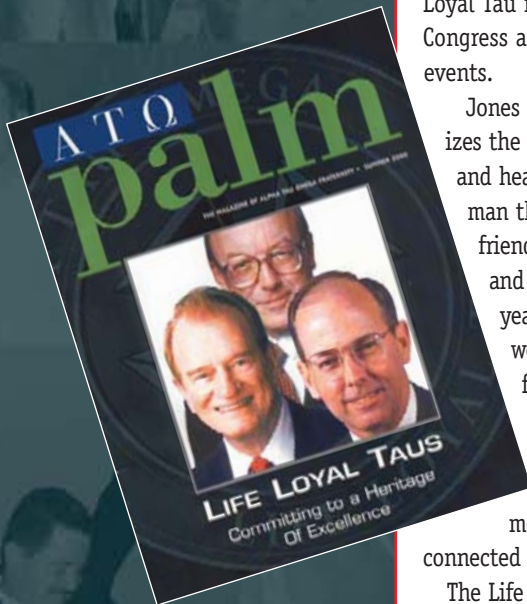
Young alumni are prone to letting their ATO experience end at the undergraduate level. But why let the lifelong commitment you made when you pledged ATO become merely a college phase? Live up to your lifelong commitment and find out what else ATO has to offer once you are through with undergraduate life.

Maryland Board of Trustees Chairman **Clay McNally, Maryland '79**, said it well. "The undergraduate experience is just a small part, you still have a majority of your life to go," he said. "If you like how it was as an undergraduate, it only gets better. You start to have families and you get to continue to assist each other. Then just knowing there is this big network of brothers that you can call at any time and know that they'll listen and not judge you. It doesn't get any better than that."

"...when you meet another ATO there's nothing spoken, it's a connection that's just there."

National Board of Director **Walt Hughes, Alabama '60**, became a Life Loyal Tau in September of 2000. "I have a great affection for ATO and the friendships I've made are life-long," he said. "There's just a common ground and when you meet another ATO there's nothing spoken, it's a connection that's just there."

The Life Loyal Tau program is quickly approaching the 400-member mark, with the goal to see all ATOs fulfill their lifelong commitment to ATO by joining Life Loyal Tau. Be proud of your commitment to ATO and become a Life Loyal Tau. There's no better way to help ensure the Taus of today continue to become the leaders of tomorrow.



Become a Life Loyal Tau today!

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- A Life Loyal Tau lapel pin
- A Life Loyal Tau membership card
- A Life Loyal Tau membership certificate
- A subscription to the *ATO Palm*. **Save more than \$1,000 over the course of your life.**
- Personal recognition in the *ATO Palm*
- Exclusive Members-only discounts and/or upgrades on rental cars, travel packages, hotels, moving services, among many other discounts.

Most importantly your membership will enhance services for undergraduates and all Loyal Tau members.

Many are surprised that the one-time cost is only \$299. You can choose from a number of payment options, including an initial payment of \$50 and then just eight convenient installments of \$35 per month. To sign up, just follow the directions on the false cover of the magazine or for more information, contact Tim Carder, director of alumni programming, at 317-684-1865 ext. 109 or e-mail LoyalTau@ato.org.

Sign up online at:

www.ato.org



LIFE LOYAL TAU MEMBERSHIP ROLL OCTOBER 2003 - FEBRUARY 2004

Arizona State
Zeta Alpha
Osborn N. Foster '54

Auburn-Montgomery
Iota Chi
John Harders '01

Ball State
Theta Alpha
Matthew E. Smith '93

Bowling Green State
Epsilon Kappa
Kevin P. Gaffney '84

Cal-Berkeley
Gamma Iota
Edward H. Hulsy '92

Carnegie-Mellon
Delta Pi
M. Delmar Ritchie '54

Cincinnati
Delta Lambda
Kirby Neumann '00

Colorado State
Delta Eta
Travis Brinkman '01

DePauw
Delta Rho
William Riley '02

Duquesne
Theta Gamma
Naos McCool '03

Elmhurst
Theta Mu
Charles T. Canfield '85

Florida
Alpha Omega
Alfred G. Bisset '89

Florida State
Epsilon Sigma
Cory J. Ciklin '77

Goldkey Beacom
Iota Kappa
Thomas Harkins '92

Illinois
Gamma Zeta
Cary D. McMillan '77
Robert J. Simonds '43

Illinois State
Theta Theta
Nicholas Erick Sivertsen '01
Derek C. Wilkinson '01

Indiana
Delta Alpha
John H. Potts '73

Iowa
Delta Beta
Kristopher M. Byam '01
Nathan Michael Moore '01

Jacksonville State
Eta Theta
Douglas B. Ford '86

Kansas
Gamma Mu
John L. Nieman '48

Kansas State
Delta Theta
Richard Robert Harrison '99
Lance Tyler Jones '99
Todd F. Lakin '92
Daniel Joseph Tokar '00

Kentucky
Mu Iota
Adam Winterberg '99

Lamar
Zeta Theta
James L. Beard '99

Marietta
Beta Rho
Robert Baer '77

Marshall
Theta Omicron
Ricky Boggs '02
Bruce Kish '02

Maryland
Epsilon Chi
Benjamin Kahane '02

Memphis
Zeta Rho
Joseph Franklin Hall, Jr '67

Mercer
Alpha Zeta
Darren James Hyatt '04
Jonathan William Manz '01

Miami
Zeta Epsilon
Luis Sanchez '68

Millikin
Theta Iota
Michael P. Walsh '76

Minnesota
Gamma Mu
James K. Peterson '61



Mississippi
Delta Psi
James D. Christy '63

Mississippi State
Epsilon Epsilon
Mark G. Van Devender '71

Montevallo
Eta Omega
David Britton Herbert '89
Nevada-Las Vegas
Eta Epsilon
Michael J. McDonald '84

North Dakota State
Epsilon Delta
Joshua Boschee '02

Northern Kentucky
Theta Omega
Christopher L. Boggs '96

Oklahoma
Delta Kappa
Erick Drummond Buckner '99

Oklahoma State
Epsilon Omicron
Michael Paul Cox '02

Penn State
Gamma Omega
Ben Siewert '03

Purdue
Gamma Omicron
Joshua Allen Quinn '98
Jerry D. Semler '55

Rhodes
Alpha Tau
James N. Mueller '00
Arnold H. Pittman '64

San Jose State
Epsilon Chi
Curtis S. Wicks '79

Simpson
Beta Alpha
Matthew S. DeWolf '01

Southern Mississippi
Epsilon Upsilon
David Diamond '57

Stephen F Austin State
Eta Iota
Curtis Rodgers '03
Stan Soderstrom '03

Tennessee-Martin
Zeta Pi
Tommy Allmon '01
Alfred Hanlin Creswell '04
Phillip Crewell '01
Tony Forzono '01
Clarence E. Lee '64
Eddie Lane Ponder '83
Matt Ragan '02

Texas
Gamma Eta
Richard N. Pickett '72
Mark M. Pond '97

Texas A & M
Theta Sigma
David A. Lacombe '01

Texas Tech
Zeta Eta
Charles T. Jenkins '71

Tulsa
Epsilon Lambda
Robert B. Price '46

UC-Riverside
Iota Theta
Ray Salgado '02

UC-Santa Barbara
Iota Nu
Eric Oddo '02

Union
Beta Tau
Joseph Franklin Hall, III '03

Virginia
Delta
Thomas G. Coleman, Jr. '47

Virginia Tech
Theta Delta
Scott Langford '02

West Florida
Eta Psi
William Moore, III '01

West Georgia
Eta Phi
Randall Shea Brock '00
Jay Shepard '98



LOYAL TAU



We come across people and experiences in our lives that impact us in a way that we could never have expected...

By Matt DeWolf

These often force us to take a hard look at ourselves and re-evaluate our purpose and the difference that we are making in life. Recently I had the fortune of encountering something like this when I heard the story of the Leyden family.

Todd Leyden was made an honor initiate at the Gamma Upsilon chapter at Iowa State in 2000. But the fact that Todd became a member of ATO is not what impacted me and got me thinking. Rather, it is what happened shortly after his initiation that has special meaning.

In February of 2001, Todd's 13-year-old son, Payton, died. Forced to do what no father or parent ever wishes to do, he buried his oldest son. Todd had two other sons Blake, 10 and Chase, 7 to counsel after Payton's death.

Todd and his wife Robyn have open discussions with Blake and Chase about faith, helping them through the difficult time without their brother. Todd said it was important for the family to keep Payton alive in their hearts and the best way for them to do it was to encourage open discussion within the family. It culminated in a profound essay written by Chase that really demonstrates he has an understanding of life, and ultimately death.

But Payton's illness and subsequent death impacted more than just his family. People all over the state of Indiana and across the United States began following his story and asking questions about faith and the impact they were making in their lives. Todd received letters and e-mails from a number of people and more than 1,000 people posted prayers or comments on the Web site created in Payton's honor, with the Web site

EDUCATION FIRST

Samaritan award recipient places emphasis on new member education.

The Good Samaritan award is presented annually by the ATO Foundation and recognizes chapters for exemplary achievement in fostering a spirit of services to others through a well-conceived and implemented chapter social service program.

The Zeta Rho chapter at Memphis brought home this year's Good Samaritan award and it's easy to see why. The Taus at Memphis put in nearly 12,000 hours of service last year and donated almost \$29,000. "It's really just part of being an ATO," said Board of Trustees Chairman **Keith Brewer, Memphis '87**. "It's bringing focus to all areas of ATO and instilling that sense of responsibility to do more than just be a social group."

The Zeta Rho chapter is an excellent example of a strong focus on a solid membership education program. "Even when I went through recruitment I could see the emphasis on educating new members and building brotherhood," said **Kyle Collins, Memphis '02**, chapter president. "It's such an important component of the chapter and if you can form a strong base early-on, that just continues and people push each other to get even better."

The chapter continues to excite its members about staying involved and staying active in the Fraternity through a strong new member education program. "I remember some of the first things I learned in the new member education program were about giving back to the community," said Brewer. "We teach leadership through membership education and that generates an interest in social service."

According to Collins, it isn't difficult to ensure a chapter's membership education program is a success. "You just have to make sure you have a guy that is a real motivator," he said. "You want somebody who really cares about ATO and has a real desire to make the chapter better and improve brotherhood."

Memphis has mandatory service commitments for each individual that begin during its new member education. "The feeling of the service being mandatory goes away after you do a couple of activities," said Brewer. "The sense of fulfillment you get makes you want to continue to make a difference."



generating more than 50,000 hits. This outpouring made Todd see that some good could come from Payton's death. Ultimately, he said that Payton's death got people thinking. It's unfortunate that it took the death of a 13-year-old boy to get people thinking.

After speaking with Todd Leyden and reading the essay that Chase wrote, it became clear that this can impact ATO as well. In just 13 years of life, Payton likely had more impact than many of us will have through our entire

lives. But we can also control that, by making a choice to stay committed to what we believe in, taking a stand for what is right and staying actively involved in our communities.

In the following pages are a group of ATO chapters that have certainly stayed active in the community and are making sure that at the end of the day, they can say that ATO has made a difference.

continued

Impact award recipient has history of contributions

The Impact award is named in honor of founder Erskine Ross, whose original gift of \$5,000 in 1935 established the ATO Foundation. The award recognizes chapters who exemplify outstanding charitable giving in the community and beyond.

Taus at Penn State have a history of raising enormous amounts of money. In the past four years, the chapter has donated more than \$1.1 million and over 100,000 hours of community service.

The chapter has been part of THON's top fund-raising pair, along with Zeta Tau Alpha, for the last nine years in what has become the largest student-run philanthropy in the world.

"It's pretty incredible to know that you're part of an organization that contributes so much," said **Josh Kameny, Penn State '01**. Kameny is one of the chapter's four THON chairs for this year.

That's right, four. The Penn State chapter takes the THON event very seriously. "It's just a real household event and we work on all aspects of it," said Kameny. "We're out every weekend raising money through canning, mail solicitations, phone calls, just trying to hit all of our angles."

Penn State has donated more than \$1.1 million over the last four years.

And the angles are all right as the community, and the nation, take notice. "In a time when young people are often slighted by the media, the student energy and enthusiasm that goes into this type of public service deserves admiration and applause," said Joe Paterno, Penn State Head Football Coach.



Members of Penn State ATO and Zeta Tau Alphas take time for a photo with one of the families benefiting from THON.

The event even gains recognition from Oprah. In a message to THON, Oprah said, "My heart swells with pride from the compassion each of you is showing to those who need it most—children suffering from cancer...Keep on dancing! My feet are moving with you!"

For the Penn State chapter, THON is a way of life and is one of the first things new members learn about. "One of the first things I can remember from my pledgship is one of the older brothers coming to talk to us about our THON approach and how we could be effective when we go to people's doors," said Kameny. "We really put a lot of

The Penn State IFC/Panhelennic Dance Marathon was organized in 1972 to fill the time between winter break and spring break. Since its humble beginnings, THON has exploded into a \$20 million per year philanthropy.

THON has been benefiting the Four Diamonds Fund for nearly three decades now and the support is paramount to the operation of Four Diamonds. THON contributions make up 87 percent of the total gifts to Four Diamonds.

The Four Diamonds Fund assists with financial, emotional and physical struggles that children with cancer and their families encounter at the Penn State Children's Hospital. According to Four Diamonds, since THON was created more than 2,000 families have received support and no family in need of assistance has ever been turned away. In promotional materials issued by Four Diamonds it is stated that, "Without THON, the programs provided by the Four Diamonds Fund would not be possible."



Each year THON helps more than 2,000 families with financial, emotional and physical struggles that children with cancer and their families encounter.

Alumni network proves valuable resource

Taus at the University of Southern California have taken full advantage of their alumni network by establishing an alumni mentor program.

This marks the second year of the mentor program and the benefits have been widely recognized in the chapter. "It's a great program," said Chapter President **Erich Neutze, Southern Cal '03**. "It's a great thing to see the alumni who are willing to take time out of their busy lives to take part in this program. It really gives you a good feeling to see that they still care about what ATO has to offer."

Board of Trustees Chairman **Jerry Papazian, Southern Cal '74**, currently manages the program and was responsible for finally getting it off the ground. "A lot of alumni wanted to help and be involved in some way, but didn't have a ton of time," he said. "This gives them a way to give back to ATO."

The program is a relatively simple process, and is mostly in the hands of the alumni

mentor and the undergraduate. Undergraduates fill out a form indicating which areas of interest they have and alumni fill out a similar form with what areas they have expertise in. Papazian collects the forms and he sets out to matching up mentors and undergraduates.

Jobs and internships are often part of the mentor relationship, but Neutze warns that the program is not to be confused with a career service. "It's definitely not strictly for jobs," he said. "You get to know the alumni and see where they've gone and get advice from them on everything. If you get a job or internship out of it, that's just another benefit of the program."

Pete Kulmaticki, Southern Cal '02, is one undergraduate that had the added benefit of an internship. "It [the program] makes it easy to interview because you go in and already have something other than the resume to talk about," he said. "My mentor took me under his wing and now I know that I've got this connection for life."

And because of that connection, Kulmaticki also said that he's more inclined

ATO'S IMPACT

Contributed more than \$3.8 million in money raised and hours served

25 True Merit Chapters

More than \$300,000 in grants and scholarships by the ATO Foundation each year

to get involved when he's out of school. "Because of my great experience, I'm definitely more apt to be involved," he said.

"When you have a great experience in something you want to make sure it is still going to be there for others to go through," said Papazian. "This program gives our alumni a chance to continue to develop young men into better people."

continued

SMALL TOWN. BIG IMPACT

In a small town it's often easy for everyone to know when you've done something wrong. But, it's even easier for a town of 8,900 to notice when a group of 80 fraternity men do something right.

"What they do is extremely important," said St. Jude Event Marketing Representative Ashley Reding. "It's really impressive with them being in a small town and being able to raise more money than many of our other groups. Their efforts help keep our hospital running."

The Tennessee-Martin chapter has been doing everything right for the community for the past few years. The Zeta Pi chapter contributed \$65,000, more than 12,000 service hours and was this year's runner-up for the Impact award.

"You've got to be community oriented to be successful," said Board of Trustees Chairman **Stephen Crockett, Tennessee-Martin '95**. "We do so many different things that our guys sometimes have to turn down groups that ask for help."

For current Chapter President **Matt Ragan, Tennessee-Martin '02**, ATO at Tennessee-Martin is more than he ever expected. "I expected the typical stuff you saw on TV, lots of partying, not much involvement," he said. "But at (Tennessee) Martin there's so much recognition through the university that you want to do more and want to stay involved."



The recognition from campus, though, is just an added bonus. "It's really just about trying to the best we can be," said Ragan. "Most other fraternities do what they can do to get by, but we always do more."

At the same time, the reputation of the chapter within the community and the campus has helped foster a sense of character. "Being in the public eye in a small town no doubt keeps guys from doing a lot of things," said Crockett. "But after so long it just turns into a way of life."



The program also gives alumni a reliable source of recruitment. "Alumni out there that are looking to hire good employees take a good look at ATOs first because they have an idea of where that person is coming from and what it is they stand for," said Papazian.

While the program is beneficial in a number of different ways, Neutze said the most important benefit is the realization of ATO as a lifelong experience. "It opens your eyes," he said. "Seeing that brothers from 10 years ago are still able to connect with brothers today helps you see that it's more than an undergraduate thing."

In the end, the alumni mentor program is a good example of just one of the ways that ATO continues to develop young men into leaders. "You get to help them early and get them thinking of the future sooner," said Papazian. "This way they are well prepared when it comes time for them to move on."

Recruitment is a blast for Ole Miss

For some chapters, recruitment is viewed as a chore or a task but for the Taus at Ole Miss, recruitment is one of their favorite pastimes. Turns out they're pretty good at it too, as they consistently bring in pledge classes of more than 60 and maintain a high retention rate.

"We just make recruitment fun," said **Nathan McIntosh, Ole Miss '01**, recruitment chair. "We plan fun events and our guys just have a genuine interest in meeting people and getting to know them."

So how does the chapter bring in so many guys? It starts early and never stops. "You just have to get out there and keep recruiting," said McIntosh. "Recruiting

good guys that will make sure ATO is around in the future is what keeps our fraternity alive. If we don't get guys to replace us, we've got nothing left."

The chapter also utilizes its full complement of available recruits. It extends its recruiting to juniors and seniors in high school. Each summer the chapter holds a large recruitment event and this summer chapter members will be venturing out to hold events and make contacts with potential recruits.

However, there's more to recruitment than a summer event. The Taus at Ole Miss also hold extensive recruitment training sessions for all members and focus on recruitment throughout the new member education process. "The new members come in and see how they were recruited and we make sure they get actively involved in the

recruitment process so they can learn by both doing it and seeing it," said McIntosh.

By the time formal recruitment starts, the Delta Psi chapter has everything well drawn up, but simply having a good plan won't bring in recruits. "You really have to execute and be organized," said McIntosh. "You get everyone in the right place and you keep recruits constantly moving and constantly talking to guys."

Getting a large pledge class is only half the battle, as retaining that class becomes the bigger challenge. McIntosh places the emphasis on the quality of the new members. "It's just going out and getting guys that have the real motivation to become ATO men," he said. "Then you teach them what the Fraternity's about and teach them the principles and they're hooked."



Taus at Ole Miss celebrate bid night. The chapter annually brings in pledge classes of more than 60 men.

ATO puts focus on founding principles, chapters see benefits

Throughout history there is inevitably a point where groups are forced to go back to the drawing board. There is talk of going back to the basics, or getting back to the roots. Many times, this is what is necessary to bring buried successes back to the surface.

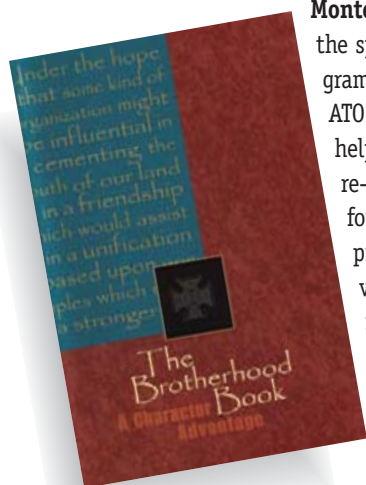
For some, the attempts to return to the basics fail miserably. But in the case of Alpha Tau Omega, this push toward re-instilling the core values has been measurably successful.

Measurably successful in that last year ATOs contributed over \$3.8 million worth of financial and service hour donations. Measurably successful in that last year's Top Chapter Kansas State and this year's Top Chapter North Alabama, were recognized as one of the top fraternity chapters in the nation by the North American Interfraternity Conference. Measurably successful in that the Kansas State chapter was recognized last year as one of the top fraternity chapters in the nation by the North American Interfraternity Conference.

Over the last three years, ATO has implemented the Character Advantage, more specifically things like the *ATO Devotional*, *The Relevance Series* and most recently *The Brotherhood Book*. Under the direction of former staff member **Allen Wilson, Montevallo '97**,

the spiritual programming arm of ATO grew and helped chapters re-focus on the founding principles and values of the fraternity.

ATO chapters are re-connecting



ATO palm

EXTREME COLD PRODUCES AVALANCHE OF SUPPORT FOR CAMPOUT

In just 48 hours, and with only 25 active members, the Iota Upsilon chapter at Western Michigan was able to raise more than \$11,000 for Habitat for Humanity and the homeless.

Armed with propane heaters, tents and sleeping bags, the Western Michigan Taus recently took to the center of campus to hold their second annual Campus Campout benefiting Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity. "We couldn't be happier with the amount we brought in," said Chapter President **Jeff Thornhill, Western Michigan '03**.

Adding to the success, according to **Justin De Graaf, Western Michigan '01**, event coordinator and former chapter president, was the harsh Michigan climate the chapter encountered. "The event took place on two of the coldest days of the winter with wind chills dropping as low as 20° F overnight," he said. "We really wanted students to walk by on their way to class and say, 'you guys are crazy. It's freezing out here' because then we could explain about the homeless problem here."

According to a recent study by Western Michigan University, on any given night approximately 800 people in Kalamazoo County are homeless, living in shelters, on the street, doubled-up with family or friends or otherwise on the verge of becoming homeless.

However, the event couldn't have been a success without the backing it received from the community, which, according to De Graaf can be largely attributed to the chapter's relationship and reputation in the community. "We get our names out there in a positive way," he said. "People know they can count on us here."

The chapter had personal backing from new WMU President Judith Bailey and the event was covered extensively in local media, further publicizing the ability of ATOs to impact the community. The chapter also had sponsorships from the Campus Activities Board, Kinko's, AmeriGas and Fifth Third Bank.

The chapter raised more than half the money committed by Western Michigan to paying for a portion of the latest Habitat for Humanity house. "They showed a lot of enthusiasm and this event helped raise the visibility of Habitat for Humanity's mission to create affordable housing," said Ann Kilkuskie, development coordinator for the Kalamazoo Valley Habitat for Humanity.

The success of the Campus Campout event mirrors the recent success of the chapter, as it received its first True Merit bowl last year. "The first one is tough," said De Graaf. "But they always say getting the second one is even harder."



Alabama Chapter President **Nick Prillaman, Alabama '02**, sees the importance of added value as well. "You build people up and realize that we are all human beings and treat each other with respect," he said. "This way you're making members have a positive experience in ATO."

For Prillaman, the commitment to principles was a big reason that he joined ATO. "I wanted to be in a fraternity but I didn't want to have to compromise my beliefs," he said. "With ATO, that was never an issue."

It's hard to believe that North Alabama was re-chartered just five years ago. It's even harder to believe that in that small time

continued

frame, they've won four True Merit bowls and were named this year's Top Chapter.

It's been a quick ride to the top for the chapter—a ride that would have never been possible without the positive restart effort and the vision of those who brought ATO back to North Alabama. "Guys like Michael Colvin and Buck Owens had the vision of what we could become," said Chapter President **Jake Wilson, North Alabama '01**. "The guys in the beginning worked their tails off to establish a solid foundation and then recruited guys that would buy into their vision."

ALABAMA



Alabama Taus have seen great success in recent years, and much of it can be attributed to the focus on founding principles.

According to Wilson, North Alabama's success can also be attributed to a commitment to the ritual and the founding principles. "The ritual is very important to our chapter," he said. "You see the impact in every area of the chapter."

Mercer is another chapter that was recently re-founded and has placed a strong emphasis on the founding principles. The chapter has been increasingly successful since re-chartering, with two consecutive True Merit bowls.

Focusing on the principles helped the Mercer chapter recruit quality members. "ATO was an organization that really reflected my principles," said Chapter President **Corbin Boekhaus, Mercer '01**. "It was an organization that allowed me to be a part of something new and unique at

Mercer and it was one of the only fraternities that didn't just exist for the sake of existing."

Part of the founding principles is the idea that ATO will bind men together and will equip young men with the necessary tools to succeed. "...To teach that true men the world over should stand together for the supremacy of good over evil; to teach not politics, but morals; to foster not partisanship, but the recognition of true merit wherever found; to have no narrower

limits within which to work than the outlines of the world..."

According to Mercer Board of Trustees Chairman

Lorenzer Jones, Mercer '51, this is exactly what's happening in ATO. "ATO helps gather so much leadership and fellowship," he said. "I can't help but feel like being an ATO, with the leadership opportunities and the focus and direction, enables people to come out of the undergraduate experience ahead of the average kid."

The chapters that have re-focused on the founding principles have seen a huge impact on recruitment as well. The North Alabama chapter grew at an amazing rate, from 12 members in the early days to 65 members now. The University of Maryland saw similar growth and now boasts the largest greek

MERCER

Taus at Mercer stand outside the church just after re-chartering.



NORTH ALABAMA



Taus at North Alabama show off new members. The chapter has seen its size grow to more than 60 men since re-chartering in 1999.

membership on campus, and Alabama, Emory and Mercer continue to bring in pledge classes of more than 20 men.

While it may be difficult for some to understand where the founding principles come into play, for North Alabama it's obvious. "It gives us a basis on how to live our lives and by keeping our founding principles in mind we're able to recruit the kind of guys that will keep our chapter on the right track," said Wilson.

Maryland Chapter President **Justin Coulombe, Maryland '03**, said it helps you define what a fraternity really is. "Fraternity isn't about drinking, it's an organization that enacts change," he said. "My definition of fraternity is an organization that has a positive impact in the community and in the lives of the brothers."

Prillaman sees how a clear definition of the principles and what a fraternity should be helps. "It allows you to do things the

moral and ethical way instead of how the guys next door are doing it," he said. "Keeping the founding principles in mind makes sure you recruit guys that know what they are and what they believe in." According to National Board of Directors Member **Walter Hughes, Alabama '60**, Prillaman isn't an anomaly when it comes to his reasons for joining. "I've seen a real positive trend in the last few years of men joining for the right reasons," he said.

MARYLAND



Taus at Maryland have a blast at a recent philanthropy event. ATO at Maryland has grown into the top chapter on Maryland's campus.

Southern Mississippi Board of Trustees Chair **Donn Mitchell, Southern Miss '87**, agrees with Hughes. "Guys coming into school that join fraternities are working hard to be living proof of the values of the fraternity," he said.

Wilson said part of the joy of new members is experience of teaching the ritual and principles to new members as well. "It's great to see the new initiates in awe when they go through initiation for the first time," said Wilson. "Then the next time they go through they have a whole new level of appreciation. It's something you carry it with you for the rest of your life and it is what molds you into the man that you need to be."

The founding principles also become important for alumni when they are seeking to bring a chapter back to campus.

"We looked at guys that were already demonstrating those qualities that we were founded on," said Maryland Board of Trustees Chairman **Clay McNally, Maryland '79**. "The guys now have a totally new mindset and they look to us for guidance to be successful."

Emory owes much of its success today to alumni efforts as well. "Our success today is clearly attributed to Paul McLarty, our chapter advisor, and his alumni board of trustees," said **Sanoop Luke, Emory '00**. "The alumni set the platform for what the new ATO would encompass, and

they sought men of scholarship, leadership, integrity and commitment. Without the alumni's vision and dedication to ATO, none of us would ever receive the joy of wearing the ATO letters proudly on our chest."

And Children's Healthcare of Atlanta is thankful for the Emory restart as well, as Emory donated \$2,000 recently. "Philanthropy is the best way for ATO brothers to make the most positive impact in society and it allows the chapter to display the positive sides of the fraternity," said Luke. "We hold events like Casino Night to show that Greeks can make a strong difference, and that we can make contributions in a safe and fun manner."

Alabama alumni were also active in bringing the chapter back and the efforts paid off. Having alumni that are committed to the principles of ATO has paved the way for the chapter's success.

"Guys like Amos Burns and Walt Hughes don't do what they do to try to win an award or get a position," said Prillaman. "That is truly amazing because you don't often find people like that in life but you see it consistently in ATO."

For Hughes, the motivation to stay involved was easy. "The first thing I knew as a kid was ATO," he said. "As you get older you begin to cut down on your activities and focus on those that mean a lot to you and ATO has definitely meant a lot to me."

While sometimes the benefits of focusing on the founding principles may seem hard to see, Hughes said the long-term change is where the real benefit is. "Over the long term there is a very positive effect," he said. "There's an entire behavior modification and a total change in the culture. That's when you can really be thrilled that you had the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young guys."

Focusing on the founding principles and the values in which ATO stands for has become paramount to the success of most ATO chapters. By keeping the founding principles utmost in our minds, we're able to make a true impact in the community, an impact in the lives of other ATO brothers and an impact in the lives of all those around us.

EMORY



Emory Taus don Casino Night attire. The chapter has been largely successful in the last two years and has re-focused on the principles of ATO.

But, we're able to make the biggest impact in our own lives, by developing a complete understanding for who we are and what we stand for and not being afraid to fight for "the supremacy of good over evil."

Alabama-Huntsville *Theta Pi*

In late February, Theta Pi dedicated time to the kids of the area at the Channel 19 News Kids Expo. The brother's participated for two full days in this carnival for kids. The chapter manned the inflatable games during the Private session of the Kid's Expo dedicated to children with disabilities. The chapter also did face painting and rub on tattoos. A few lucky children were given ATO tattoos, which they proudly sported the rest of the day.

Baldwin-Wallace *Epsilon Theta*

The chapter spent Valentine's Day with residents at the Altenheim Nursing Home. It handed out personal valentines and had spent time talking with residents.

Duquesne *Theta Gamma*

The chapter recently recruited the largest pledge class on campus. With 17 new recruits, the chapter size has grown to

Florida State *Epsilon Sigma*

The chapter held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new house on Nov. 15, 2003. The new house will be at the site of the new fraternity park on the Florida State campus.

Francis Marion *Theta Xi*

The brothers paired with Kappa Delta to host a Halloween festival at Timrod Elementary School. They organized games, handed out candy, worked concessions and monitored the halls.

Idaho *Delta Tau*

The chapter is sponsoring the University of Idaho's first American Cancer Society Relay For Life on April 17 at the UI Kibbie Dome.

Kansas State *Delta Theta*

The chapter hosted an ATO Chapter Development Conference at the K-State Alumni Center. Led by undergraduates, the conference fostered open discussions on recruitment, membership education, risk management, building brotherhood and more.

Murray State *Zeta Lambda*

After not participating in Homecoming activities for several years, the chapter paired with ASA to build a float that earned them second place in the parade.

Nebraska-Lincoln *Gamma Theta*

The chapter held its Founders Day celebration on April 3. Events included a barbecue, a golf outing, a cocktail party at Embassy

Want to see your chapter featured here? Submit your chapter news to Matt DeWolf at ATO National Headquarters or log on to www.ato.org and report them to the Palm.

Suites, a short presentation of 25 and 50-year initiates and dinner at Embassy Suites.

Nevada-Reno *Delta Iota*

The ATO chapter house was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1929, the ATO house was the first fraternity house built in the state of Nevada, according to Nevada state historic preservation officer Ron James. The house was placed on the register due to the significance of the prominent tenants the building had housed and because of the architectural design of the house.

North Dakota State

Epsilon Delta

Brothers served pancakes and sausage at the Kiwanis pancake festival. Over 8,000 were in attendance. The brothers stayed until the very end, cleaning the grills and taking down all of the equipment. It was great to see so much dedication even on a special day like Valentine's Day.

Rhodes *Alpha Tau*

The chapter recently raised \$1,000 for its local Habitat for Humanity group.



Rose-Hulman *Gamma Gamma*

The chapter volunteered for the "Bikes for Tikes" program. It helped unload trucks, assemble the bikes, inspect the bikes and deliver them to the kids' homes. That day, the chapter helped put together over 350 bikes for underprivileged kids for Christmas.

Simpson College *Beta Alpha*

The chapter hosted a career and counseling services event for all members and a neighboring fraternity. The event focused on

proper resume development and how to search for jobs and internships.

Southern Illinois *Theta Zeta*

The chapter will be celebrating its 30th anniversary the weekend of April 17 in conjunction with Founder's day. The chapter signed 18 outstanding men for the fall Beta Nu pledge class and made Theta Zeta the largest chapter on campus. In September the chapter raised more than \$5,000 with Forty-eight Hours of Volleyball, created to raise money for Brandon Wyatt who was diagnosed with Cushing's disease and had no medical insurance. His death in December has given the chapter motivation to continue this event as an annual fundraiser to help in establishing a scholarship in his honor. Updates on chapter and alumni news and events can be found at the chapter's Web site at www.siuato.org.

Stetson *Theta Psi*

The chapter partnered with the Florida Trail Association to complete more than 152 hours of work on the Florida National Scenic Trail. The chapter laid clay on sections of the trail to provide a firm and stable surface for walkers and hikers. The trail is one of only eight National Scenic Trails in the country and shares the same congressionally mandated states as the Appalachian Trail.

Tennessee-Martin *Zeta Pi*

The chapter celebrated its 40-year anniversary this year with a Founders Day Weekend that featured National President Miles McCall, Stephen F. Austin '80.

Virginia *Delta*

The Delta Chapter is officially participating in Relay for Life 2004, an 18-hour team race to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Many brothers had done this before in their hometowns and the chapter jumped on the chance to be active in the First Relay for Life ever in Charlottesville, Va. Our next challenge will be fundraising at least \$1,000 for our team. There are 27 teams currently in the race scheduled for April 2004.

Washington *Gamma Pi*

The chapter is holding an ATO Founders Day Cruise on April 25. The cruise travels the Puget Sound and Elliot Bay on Argosy cruises and includes a lunch buffet catered by the Metropolitan Grill.

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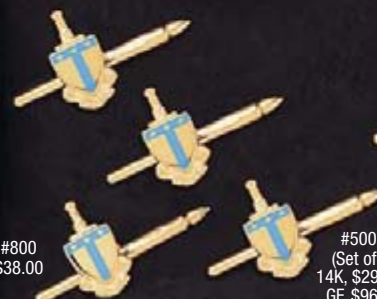
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All roads lead to Po

Jason Parks, North Alabama '00, and Kyle Rouse, Florida State '00, took different routes, but



Parks on the South Lawn of the White House

Ports Award recipient had White House dreams.

For Jason Parks, North Alabama '00, the idea of working in the White House had always been more of a dream than a reality.

That is, of course, until the ATO Foundation came into the picture. "It's always been a dream for me to intern in the White House," said Parks. "Without the Ports Award and the ATO Foundation, I never would have been able to do any of this."

Each year the ATO awards one ATO undergraduate with the opportunity of a lifetime. For six to eight weeks the outstanding ATO junior selected interns in Washington, D.C. The last two award recipients had internships with the Office of Public Liaison in the White House. The Foundation pays a \$150 per week stipend and provides travel to and from Washington, D.C. as well as housing for the duration of the internship.

The internship is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in public affairs and political science. "It was absolutely amazing to be in that fast-paced environment," said Parks. "At the same time, it was very humbling to be working in places like the Eisenhower building."

While it did pique his interest in public affairs, the opportunity also further nurtured his interest in servant leadership and re-affirmed his commitment to Alpha Tau Omega. "Seeing everyone there dedicated to servant leadership and integrity was important to me," he said. "Servant leadership and integrity has always been important to me and I'm indebted to ATO for helping me develop that sense of ideals."

During his internship, Parks had the opportunity to attend President George W. Bush's signing of the partial birth abortion ban. "That's probably the most memorable part of the experience for me," said Parks. "It's an issue I feel strongly about and getting to work even a little bit on the project meant a lot to me and just being in the room with leaders you normally only see on TV is remarkable."

Alpha Tau Omega is always focused on developing young men into the leaders of tomorrow and instilling character and the Ports Award is just one part of this goal. "ATO has allowed me the experience things and develop skills that I wouldn't be able to anywhere else," Parks said.

The Ports award was established in 1965 in honor of **Richard A. Ports, Mount Union '54**, former volunteer aide of then Vice-President Richard M. Nixon and has provided internship opportunities for ATOs in every Republican and Democratic administration since its establishment.

For Jason Parks, the idea of working in the White House had always been more of a dream than a reality.

ennsylvania Avenue

both were afforded the opportunity of a lifetime when they recently interned in the White House.

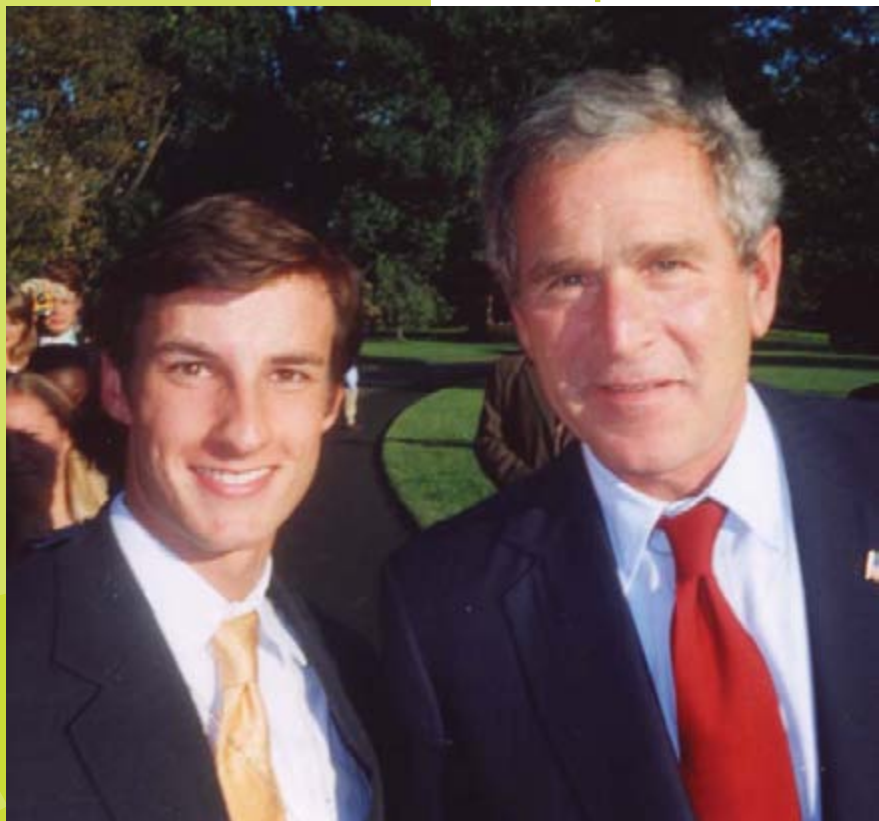
Rouse savors opportunity.

"My experience in The White House can be described as nothing less than the opportunity of a lifetime," said **Kyle Rouse, Florida State '00.**

"Working in the West Wing was more than just a chance to walk the same halls as national leaders. It was more than being a political insider for my duration there. It was an entirely new degree of seriousness required to match the intensity of the environment.

"I interned in Karl Rove's office, Senior Advisor to the President, in the fall of 2003. Naturally, as interns in many fields would attest, a considerable portion of your day is spent at the copy machine, the fax machine, or on the phone. In return for my efforts, I was entrusted with important tasks. My projects included preparing state political briefings and daily event briefings for the President. I also had the opportunity to work with the Office of the First Lady as a liaison between the social staff and Senior Administration officials for Presidential Receptions.

"Met with grueling hours testing my limits, I often wondered if I could endure, but knowing that some of the most important work in the Nation is conducted within those halls, gave me a steady strength.



Rouse with President George W. Bush



Rouse with National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice

"The most irreplaceable aspects of my White House experience were when various directors, from speechwriters to national security directors, would take time to mentor me and teach me. The lessons they imparted from their decades of service supersede what is found on the pages of a textbook. Their contributions extend beyond professional advice – being able to see the nation's leaders as people exposed me to a different, but very important side of leadership.

"I can only hope to take all of their wisdom, professionally and personally, with me as I venture into the public service."



Rouse with Senior Advisor to the President Karl Rove

"My experience in The White House can be described as nothing less than the opportunity of a lifetime."

KYLE ROUSE, FLORIDA STATE '00

EDITOR'S NOTE

Doug Monroe, Georgia '66, is a recovering alcoholic who wrote about his fraternity experience for a recent article in *Atlanta Monthly*.

There clearly was a dark side to Doug's fraternity experience that other brothers may be able to relate to. Frankly, Doug writes about an issue that is customarily linked to fraternity-life. In reality alcohol misuse is not exclusive to ATO, fraternities in general or the greek world. Alcohol misuse on college campuses is under society's bright spotlight with a growing pressure for reform. Unfortunately, some social scientists, college administrators and others believe that if fraternities would fade away (and Division I varsity athletics), the alcohol problem would be solved. Not only is that attitude simplistic in its approach, it is patently wrong. Many other college administrators and experts understand alcohol misuse is a symptom of more complex issues. As the landscape changes on what is acceptable regarding alcohol use (even the definition of binge drinking has dramatically changed in the last ten years) it is clear that too many college students are doing damage to themselves by drinking irresponsibly.

At the end of his article, Brother Monroe talks about the new ATO chapter at Georgia. It is alcohol-free and, he for one, is pleased. So am I. By mandating that all new or redeveloping chapters be alcohol free, ATO is speaking to its continued efforts to address alcohol misuse, but more importantly and strategically, it is speaking to a growing demographic of college men. The number of students entering college who are seldom or never alcohol drinkers is growing. Some research suggests that up to thirty percent of incoming freshmen have little interest in alcohol consumption. At the same time, the interest in what ATO truly has to offer is as strong as

it has ever been. Ask any of the new members of the Georgia Colony and more likely than not, they will say they had no interest in joining a fraternity because they had no interest in the Animal House mentality. Certainly, that is a stereotype that applies to a decreasing number of fraternity chapters...but it is a strong image that keeps good men away from fraternity life. By addressing the issue of alcohol, ATO is also addressing the issue of changing demographics on college campuses.

Why include Brother Monroe's article in the *Palm*? Doesn't it simply reinforce the stereotype of Animal House? I believe it does just the opposite. ATO and most other major national fraternities have been steadfast in their desire for their newest members to understand the consequences of misusing alcohol. Monroe paints a bleak picture of his life after college and that of a handful of his chapter-mates. If that insight helps even one undergraduate to reconsider his choice regarding alcohol, the article is well worth any controversy it may raise.

It is interesting to know that typically those with the strongest aversion to alcohol free chapters are the alumni of those chapters. They believe their fraternity experience was so great with alcohol (whether it was abused or not) that they cannot imagine a good fraternity experience without it. In our redevelopment at Georgia, alumni support has been outstanding and continues to be a key element in the Colony's strength. These men understand the new realities of fraternity life and are embracing them. Doug Monroe would be proud of his brothers.

WRS

A Drinker's Tale

By Doug Monroe

On a recent visit to the University of Georgia campus, I walked around the yard of the old ATO house at 130 River Road, just a few hundred yards from the mammoth football stadium where the Bulldogs play.

Fall semester was underway and, in my day, young men would have been drinking beer, yelling and horsing around. The juke box would have been blaring soul music. Pledges would have been doing chores and the upperclassmen would have been criticizing their work.

But all was ghostly silent. Windows were shattered or boarded up. Wooden trim had rotted. The place was barren, empty and forlorn. The university had posted "No Trespassing" signs on the doors. An empty bottle of Jack Daniels, black label, rested in the weeds near the front steps.

For more information on Doug Monroe, go to www.dougmonroe.com

Georgia colony is grade A

After just one semester in existence, the UGA colony posted a 3.2 chapter GPA placing them sixth out of 26 chapters on campus.

Consequently, the group was above both the all male and all greek average.

But the colony's success doesn't stop at grades; it was recently named Delta Gamma's fraternity of the month, has adopted a high-way and has participated in multiple campus events and sorority philanthropies. "We're just trying to make sure everyone is active and involved," said Chip Barber, colony president. "I think it really helps make them feel like they are a part of it and makes them want to stick around."

Numbers haven't been a problem for the UGA colony either, as it has more than doubled in size since the colonization in

September. The colony is currently the largest expansion group on campus. "People see progress and they see the future we have here," said Barber. "They get interested because of how far we've come already and how far we can go."

Staying true to the idea that ATO is America's Leadership Development Fraternity, the colony has been a catalyst in the IFC by challenging the organization to a platelet drive.

While the group is relatively new, there is some added pressure to charter soon, at least from the colony president. "I'm pushing to get us chartered while I'm still president," Barber said. "We've got the right drive and the right push and it's just a matter of seeking out the areas we need to improve on and taking action to improve." ▼



I walked across the patio where I saw the Swinging Medallions play "Double Shot (of My Baby's Love)" when it was on the charts in 1966. Today the patio is overgrown and surrounded by weeds. The ATO house is abandoned and out of business. The fraternity was expelled from campus four years ago because a road trip, one of the time-honored pranks of an animal house, went terribly wrong.

Four pledges took a sophomore brother on a road trip. A carload of brothers gave chase. The pledges' SUV sped up, hit gravel and wrecked. The brother was thrown from the vehicle and killed. The young men in the SUV were put on probation and sentenced to perform community service. Officials said neither the victim nor the driver had been drinking, but the foolishness still proved fatal. The university formally disbanded the ATO chapter at UGA and took over the house.

When I heard about the tragedy, I thought, "There but for the grace of God, go I."

Any one of a hundred nights could have turned to disaster for me when I lived in the

ATO house because of the staggering amounts of alcohol I consumed. I was a daily drinker and a binge drinker. I frequently experienced alcoholic blackouts. I spent the night before my first ATO formal under arrest in the drunk tank of the Atlanta City Jail.

It never dawned on me that my wild fraternity drinking could continue after I graduated. But it did. I kept drinking heavily and getting into trouble until I was 35, when I found my way into a recovery group. I haven't had a drink in 21 years. Some of the brothers I drank with weren't so fortunate. Two died in alcohol-related car wrecks. One shot himself. One was a diabetic who, I'm told, died because his illness was exacerbated by his drinking. Another became a heavy drug user and died of AIDS.

Some young men are now trying to revive ATO at UGA. Engineers say it would cost too much to bring the old house up to code. Wherever the reborn fraternity is located, it will be in an alcohol-free house. I will be happy to tell the new brothers why that's a good idea. ▼

The new colony at the University of Georgia has definitely started things right. With a good group of alumni supporters, a solid initial recruitment and an impressive track record already, the colony is well on its way to getting chartered.



Persistence pays off for latest sax sensation

Every musician has a story of how they made it. They range from Jewel's rise from poverty to stardom to the lovable and laughable William Hung's big break on American Idol.

Hung tried out for the hit TV show, American Idol and never made it past auditions, largely due to a lack of talent. So Hung won't be touring with Ricky Martin anytime soon, but he has a back-up degree in engineering. But **Jimmy Sommers, Southern Illinois '89**, can take the industrial engineering degree he earned in three and a half years and throw it in the trash—he's got music to make.

"Music's always been my dream," said Sommers. "You always want to do your dream, the tricky part is figuring out who you need to work with to make it happen."

And that's exactly what Sommers set out to do. After a stab at Los Angeles and returning to Chicago, he had to re-group. "I didn't know anyone and music-wise it just wasn't going real great," he said. "I just couldn't get it together, so I moved back home and got on with Leo Burnett producing commercials."

"I had no idea what I was doing," he said. "I went in and just kind of talked them into it. Next thing I know, I'm producing these \$300,000 commercial spots."

Without the move back to Chicago, Sommers may have never gotten his break. "I met a girl that was playing Eric Bene't's music and we ended up at a concert together," he said. "I must have looked like a manager or something, because I walked right backstage with no pass or anything and met him and got hooked up with some producer contacts."

From then on, everything "just clicked" for him. "I just set a deadline for myself to have a record out by such and such a date and I stuck to it," he said. "I sent it out, and suddenly everybody was interested."

Sommers wasted no time in making his way back out to Los Angeles. "I love it out here," he said. "There's always something going on, if you want there to be."

"You always want to do your dream, the tricky part is figuring out who you need to work with to make it happen." JIMMY SOMMERS

It should come as no surprise then that Sommers does more than make his own albums. He produces children's music for his

company Baby Genius, he owns a high profile sushi restaurant that was featured in *In Style* magazine and he is working on a few movie scripts as well.

Sommers is currently touring to promote his latest album "Loveline." He already has two albums out and his latest album features tracks with Macy Gray, Rahsaan Patterson, Ruff Endz and Eric Bene't. "I kind of like that neo-soul vibe," said Sommers. "The artists I work with are people I've always wanted to work with, so I come up with a track that suits them and then go to them with it."

With the circle he's running in, it doesn't look like Sommers will need that engineering degree anytime soon. He spent last New Year's with Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen rubbing elbows in St. Bart's with Puff Daddy. He is neighbors with Mike Mills from REM, John Taylor from Duran Duran and famous DJ Paul Okenfeld. Oh yeah, and he's spent some time at Hugh Hefner's place. "I guess that's how you can tell you made it," he said. "When Heff has you over, you made it."



Who introduced you to ATO?

I bet you can see his face and remember his name right now. Why not be that same man to someone else. Introduce someone to ATO and make the difference of a lifetime.

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ATO is offering a \$1,000 Distinct Advantage Scholarship to any student entering a college or university hosting a chapter of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity. Log on to www.JoinATO.org for application deadline and information.

ALPHA TAU OMEGA

Founded September 11, 1885

*130 Chapters and 7 Colonies Nationwide
January 1, 2004*

ALABAMA

- 1 Alabama, *Beta Delta*
- 2 Alabama-Birmingham, *Theta Phi*
- 3 Alabama-Huntsville, *Theta Pi*
- 4 Auburn, *Alpha Epsilon*
- 5 Auburn-Montgomery, *Iota Chi*
- 6 Birmingham-Southern, *Beta Beta*
- 7 Montevallo, *Eta Omega*
- 8 North Alabama, *Theta Eta*
- 9 Troy State, *Colony*

ARIZONA

- 1 Northern Arizona, *Iota Iota*

ARKANSAS

- 1 Arkansas State, *Eta Gamma*

CALIFORNIA

- 1 Cal-Berkeley, *Gamma Iota*
- 2 UCLA, *Delta Chi*
- 3 San Jose State, *Epsilon Chi*
- 4 Southern Cal, *Zeta Beta*
- 5 UC-Riverside, *Iota Theta*
- 6 UC-Santa Barbara, *Iota Nu*

COLORADO

- 1 Colorado Mines, *Epsilon Alpha*
- 2 Colorado State, *Delta Eta*

DELAWARE

- 1 Delaware, *Epsilon Rho*

FLORIDA

- 1 Central Florida, *Eta Rho*
- 2 Florida Atlantic, *Eta Mu*
- 3 Florida, *Alpha Omega*
- 4 Florida State, *Epsilon Sigma*
- 5 Rollins, *Iota Zeta*
- 6 South Florida, *Colony*
- 7 Stetson, *Theta Psi*
- 8 West Florida, *Eta Psi*

GEORGIA

- 1 Emory, *Alpha Theta*
- 2 Georgia, *Colony*
- 3 Georgia Southern, *Eta Zeta*
- 4 Georgia Tech, *Beta Iota*
- 5 Mercer, *Alpha Zeta*
- 6 West Georgia, *Eta Phi*

IDAHO

- 1 Idaho, *Delta Tau*

ILLINOIS

- 1 Illinois, *Gamma Zeta*
- 2 Illinois State, *Theta Theta*
- 3 Millikin, *Theta Iota*
- 4 Monmouth, *Epsilon Nu*
- 5 Southern Illinois, *Theta Zeta*

INDIANA

- 1 DePauw, *Delta Rho*
- 2 Indiana, *Delta Alpha*
- 3 Indiana State, *Zeta Omicron*
- 4 Purdue, *Gamma Omicron*
- 5 Rose-Hulman, *Gamma Gamma*

IOWA

- 1 Iowa, *Delta Beta*
- 2 Iowa State, *Gamma Upsilon*
- 3 Simpson, *Beta Alpha*

KANSAS

- 1 Kansas State, *Delta Theta*

KENTUCKY

- 1 Kentucky, *Mu Iota*
- 2 Murray State, *Zeta Lambda*
- 3 Northern Kentucky, *Theta Omega*

LOUISIANA

- 1 Louisiana Tech, *Zeta Chi*
- 2 Tulane, *Beta Epsilon*

MARYLAND

- 1 Maryland, *Epsilon Gamma*

MASSACHUSETTS

- 1 MIT, *Beta Gamma*
- 2 Worcester Poly, *Gamma Sigma*

MICHIGAN

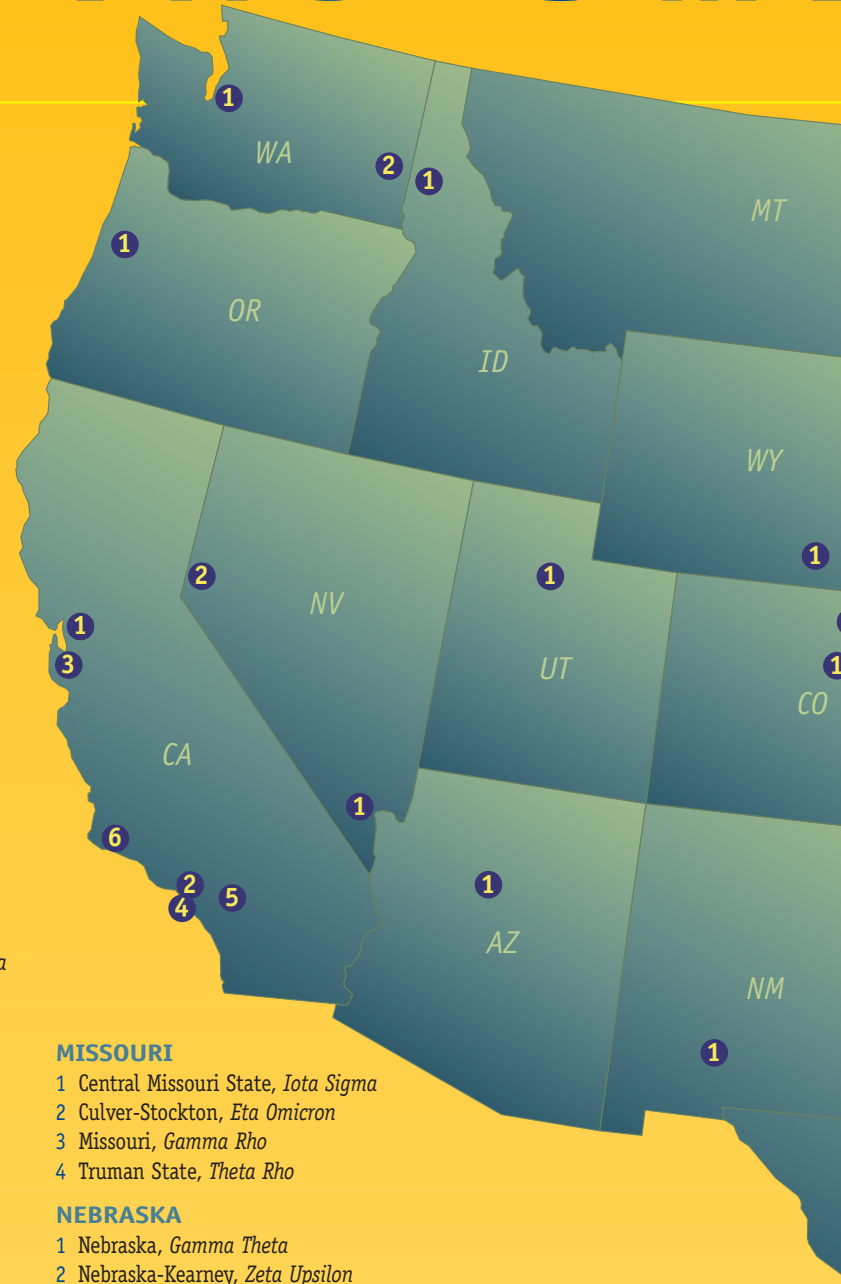
- 1 Adrian, *Alpha Mu*
- 2 Albion, *Beta Omicron*
- 3 Hillsdale, *Beta Kappa*
- 4 Michigan, *Beta Lambda*
- 5 Michigan State, *Epsilon Eta*
- 6 Western Michigan, *Iota Upsilon*

MINNESOTA

- 1 Minnesota, *Gamma Nu*

MISSISSIPPI

- 1 Mississippi, *Delta Psi*
- 2 Mississippi State, *Epsilon Epsilon*
- 3 Southern Mississippi, *Epsilon Upsilon*



MISSOURI

- 1 Central Missouri State, *Iota Sigma*
- 2 Culver-Stockton, *Eta Omicron*
- 3 Missouri, *Gamma Rho*
- 4 Truman State, *Theta Rho*

NEBRASKA

- 1 Nebraska, *Gamma Theta*
- 2 Nebraska-Kearney, *Zeta Upsilon*

NEVADA

- 1 Nevada-Las Vegas, *Eta Epsilon*
- 2 Nevada-Reno, *Delta Iota*

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- 1 New Hampshire, *Delta Delta*

NEW MEXICO

- 1 New Mexico State, *Theta Kappa*

NEW YORK

- 1 Cornell, *Beta Theta*
- 2 St. Lawrence, *Alpha Omicron*
- 3 Syracuse, *Epsilon Phi*

NORTH CAROLINA

- 1 Appalachian State, *Iota Pi*
- 2 Duke, *Xi*
- 3 North Carolina, *Alpha Delta*

NORTH DAKOTA

- 1 North Dakota, *Delta Nu*
- 2 North Dakota State, *Epsilon Delta*

OHIO

- 1 Baldwin-Wallace, *Epsilon Theta*
- 2 Cincinnati, *Delta Lambda*
- 3 Kent State, *Zeta Zeta*
- 4 Marietta, *Beta Rho*
- 5 Miami-Ohio, *Theta Lambda*
- 6 Mount Union, *Alpha Nu*
- 7 Ohio State, *Colony*

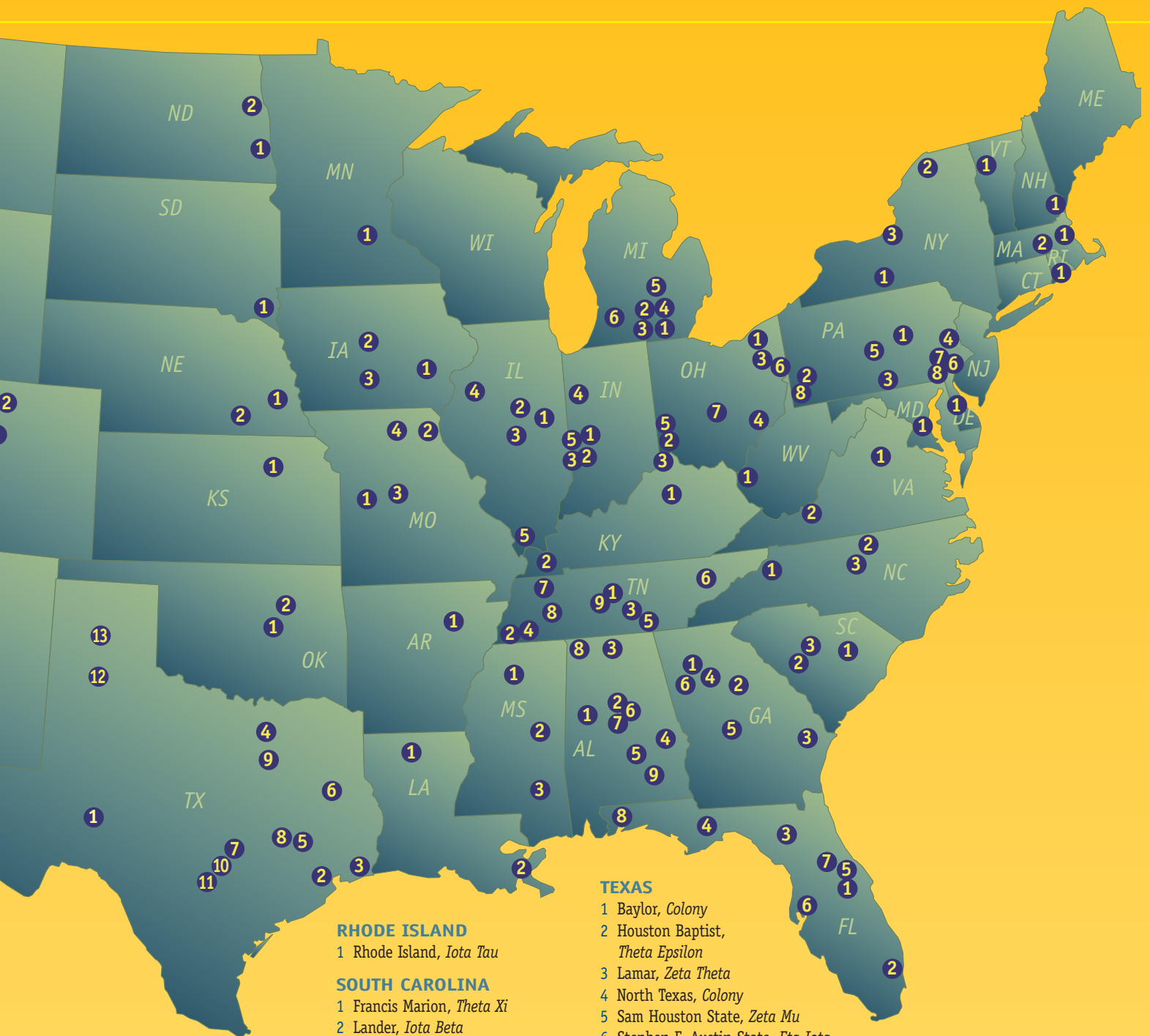
OKLAHOMA

- 1 Central Oklahoma, *Zeta Nu*
- 1 Oklahoma State, *Epsilon Omicron*

OREGON

- 1 Oregon State, *Alpha Sigma*

EGA FRATERNITY



TEXAS

- 1 Baylor, Colony
- 2 Houston Baptist, Theta Epsilon
- 3 Lamar, Zeta Theta
- 4 North Texas, Colony
- 5 Sam Houston State, Zeta Mu
- 6 Stephen F. Austin State, Eta Iota
- 7 Texas, Gamma Eta
- 8 Texas A & M, Theta Sigma
- 9 Texas-Arlington, Colony
- 10 Texas State-San Marcos, Iota Alpha
- 11 Texas-San Antonio, Iota Epsilon
- 12 Texas Tech, Zeta Eta
- 13 West Texas A & M, Zeta Kappa

UTAH

- 1 Utah, Epsilon Tau

RHODE ISLAND

- 1 Rhode Island, Iota Tau

SOUTH CAROLINA

- 1 Francis Marion, Theta Xi
- 2 Lander, Iota Beta
- 3 South Carolina, Alpha Phi

TENNESSEE

- 1 Belmont, Iota Phi
- 2 Memphis, Zeta Rho
- 3 Middle Tennessee State, Eta Nu
- 4 Rhodes, Alpha Tau
- 5 University of the South, Omega
- 6 Tennessee, Pi
- 7 Tennessee-Martin, Zeta Pi
- 8 Union, Beta Tau
- 9 Vanderbilt, Beta Pi

PENNSYLVANIA

- 1 Bloomsburg, Iota Omega
- 2 Duquesne, Theta Gamma
- 3 Gettysburg, Alpha Upsilon
- 4 Lehigh, Alpha Rho
- 5 Penn State, Gamma Omega
- 6 Pennsylvania, Tau
- 7 Temple, Iota Psi
- 8 Washington & Jefferson, Alpha Pi
- 9 Widener, Iota Delta

VIRGINIA

- 1 Virginia, Delta
- 2 Virginia Tech, Theta Delta

WASHINGTON

- 1 Washington, Gamma Pi
- 2 Washington State, Gamma Chi

WEST VIRGINIA

- 1 Marshall, Theta Omicron

WYOMING

- 1 Wyoming, Gamma Psi

ENTERTAINMENT

■ **John Brackin, Rhodes '91**, recently had his first book published by DaCapo Press. Entitled "Stealth Patrol: The making of a Vietnam Ranger" the book depicts the early days of the Army Rangers during the Vietnam War.

■ **David Diamond, Southern Mississippi '56**, is being published by Fithian this summer with his book, "Cool Hand in a Hot Fire: A Novel."

SPORTS

■ **Kevin Stone, Adrian '91**, is headed to Athens, Greece this September as a member of the United States Paralympic Team. Stone was featured in the fall '03 issue of the *Palm* in the article "Quest for Olympic Gold."

■ Four ATOs were recently nominated for the All-Century Illini Basketball Team. Those nominated were **Walt Kirk, Illinois '43**, **Bill Erickson, Illinois '71**, **Bob Doster, Illinois '45**, and **Louis Dehner, Illinois '39**.



Kevin Stone

ALUMNI AWARDS

■ **Dabney S. Wellford, Tennessee Pi '46**, was inducted into the Memphis Amateur Sports Hall of Fame for tennis. Wellford is retired from the staff of the National Cotton Council of America and is past president of the Memphis Tennis Association.

■ **Guy Kornblum, Indiana '58**, had his law firm Kornblum and Associates named "Law firm of the Year" for pro bono work for the AIDS legal referral panel. His firm was also one of 20 firms featured in the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce's 2004 international directory.

■ **Robert Hurst, Sam Houston State '77**, was recently named to the Sam Houston State University alumni board. He was also awarded the 2003 SHSU radio-television department's Outstanding Alumnus Award.



Dabney S. Wellford

BUSINESS

■ **Richard Clausing, Illinois '74**, was promoted to chairman of Lord & Taylor, America's oldest specialty department store. Clausing joined May's corporate office in 1988 as director of accounting and was promoted in 1989 to vice president of corporate accounting and reporting.

From there, he was named senior vice president of finance at St. Louis-based Famous-Barr division and assumed his previous position as senior vice president of finance at Lord & Taylor in 1994.

■ **Brian Kosar, Baldwin-Wallace '87**, was recently named Chairman of Citadel Media. He was the youngest graduate of the Baldwin-Wallace MBA program. Prior to his appointment, he was with Sutro & Co. in San Francisco, one of the oldest investment banking firms in the United States. At Sutro, he was Co-Head of Equity Capital Markets and oversaw overall corporate strategic planning and the Research, Investment Banking, Institutional Sales, Trading and Syndicate functions.

■ **Philip A. Borkowski, Cornell '82**, was named Vice President, Asset Management for Crestline Hotels & Resorts. He is responsible for each property's economic profitability and physical completion and since starting with Crestline five years ago, has already directed the completion of 48 property renovations with a total budget exceeding \$50 million.

Crestline Hotels & Resorts, Inc. is one of the nation's largest independent hospitality management companies. It manages properties in 17 states and the District of Columbia and manages properties independently and under brands like Marriott, Hilton, Renaissance and Radisson.

FRATERNITY NEWS

■ The North American Interfraternity Conference is honoring Alpha Tau Omega with two prestigious awards.

For the second year in a row, an ATO undergraduate chapter is being recognized as one of the best undergraduate chapters in the nation. **North Alabama** is being honored by the NIC with an Award of Distinction, which is given to fraternity chapters that demonstrate excellent overall leadership and excellence in the advancement of fraternal ideals.

Sanoop Luke, Emory '02, is also being honored by the NIC with an outstanding undergraduate Award of Distinction. The undergraduate member Award of Distinction is awarded to an individual for recognition of overall leadership and excellence in the advancement of fraternal ideas. Luke appeared in ATO Roadshow 11 as the Tau 2 Watch.

■ This year the Fraternity released *The Brotherhood Book*, the third publication that is part of the Character Advantage. The book was created as a tool to help chapters continue to find meaning in everyday activities and learn how to increase brotherhood within the chapter.

■ The Fraternity is pleased to welcome **Nick Sivertsen, Illinois State '01**, to staff. He joins staff as a Membership Consultant after graduating with a degree in business administration. His responsibilities include maintaining the family of ATO Web sites, assisting with expansion logistics, membership audits and he is part of the risk management team.

■ ATO is pleased to welcome its newest Colony group, **Baylor**. Baylor colonized with 35 members on February 7, 2004. Since then, the group has been active by participating in Habitat for Humanity events and other philanthropies as well as holding a brotherhood retreat the last weekend in February.

■ ATO is also pleased to welcome **South Florida** as a new colony. The group colonized on February 8, 2004.

■ The *Harris Directory* has been completed and if you ordered a copy, you should be receiving it soon. If you do not receive it by the end of April, contact ATO National Headquarters.

CHAPTER ETERNAL

■ **W.C. Clary, Jr., Emory '26**, died December 13, 2003. Clary was nearing his 78th anniversary of his ATO initiation. He served as Chairman and President of the Bank of Toccoa and had served as President of the Georgia Bankers Association, Mayor of the city of Toccoa, was a member and chairman of the Stephens County Development Authority and served on the Stephens County Hospital Authority for 16 years. His involvement doesn't stop there. He also established the School of Banking at the University of Georgia and served as Dean of the school. The Toccoa-Stephens County Chamber of Commerce honored Clary in May 2003 with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

■ **William M.S. Dunn, III, Bowling Green '50**, died August 28, 2003. He was corporate secretary, general counsel and a director at Anderson Concrete Corp. He was a member of R.O.T.C. and served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

■ **Jim Kinzel, Florida '69**, died recently at the age of 53. An insurance executive who led the Ronald McDonald House in St. Petersburg, Florida, Kinzel helped launch the annual Ronald McDonald Golf Classic. "He was a wonderful human being," said Edward Ameen, chairman of the Roland McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay. "He was a great guy."

Kinzel was a former board member and president of the St. Pete Beach Chamber of Commerce and served on the board of the Ronald McDonald House from 1988-1994. He was also former chairman of the Better Business Bureau of Tampa Bay and board member of Palms of Pasadena Hospital and All Children's Hospital.

■ **George Bowers, Bowling Green '47**, died February 6, 2004. He was dean emeritus of Miami-Ohio's School of Applied Science and was named the first dean of the school in 1967. He established systems analysis as a full major, one of the first programs of its kind in the country and upon his retirement in 1983 was named the "Founding Dean" of the school.



George Bowers

■ **Dr. Robert Oden Stuart II, Indiana '82**, died Jan. 10. Stuart was an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of California-San Diego and Director of the San Diego VA GeneChip Core laboratory.

■ **Henry K. Haugan, South Dakota '47**, died December 5, 2003. He was a past board member of Des Moines' Planning and Zoning Commission and the Des Moines Mayor's Committee on Race Relations. He was also an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a lifelong member of the National Rifle Association.

■ **Walter C. Motta, Jr., San Jose St. '58**, died December 26, 2003. He served as treasurer and director for the Livermore Stockman's Rodeo Association.

■ **R. Howard Dobbs, Emory '24**, died recently. The University Center at Emory is named after him and he made a significant contribution to the Emory ATO Chapter house renovation, making it possible for the re-charting of the chapter. He spent 22 years as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Life Insurance Company of Georgia.

■ **Michael Douglas Stephens, West Texas '70**, died Jan. 3. He was the founder of Edmond, Deaton and Stephens Insurance Agency.

■ **Robert G. Coshow, Kansas '47**, died Nov. 7. He was chief executive officer of OEM Industrial/Hydraulics and president of Great Bend Industries from 1967-1992.

MILITARY

■ Three ATOs, **Michael Wilson, Utah '02**, **William Blake English, Tennessee-Martin '03**, and **Peter Gustafson, North Dakota State '95**, connected with each other at the National Advanced Leadership Camp at Ft. Lewis, Wash. There were more than 380 cadets at the site and the three Taus happened to be in the same platoon.

■ **Kevin McCormick, Purdue '98**, has been serving in Iraq over the course of the last year. He has been in contact with ATO National Headquarters during his service in the war and at right are a few excerpts that reflect the lighter side, and the darker side of the war.

Light

...The bottom line is I had to man the water point by myself and unknowingly transport a five-gallon water jug insecurely...When I opened my trunk the water jug had fallen over spilling approximately half of the water... I thought to myself this is not good! I managed to soak up a lot of the water and semi-dry the lining in the trunk with my First Command Financial Services Polo Shirt and then I had another thought...the spare tire well is the lowest point in the trunk and as all good engineers know, water flows downhill. This is not good, not good at all. So I start to take my spare out and find it floating in about two gallons of water. It was actually kind of like a waterfall with the water still dripping down the sides. Mind you, it was about 0215 in the morning and pitch black outside...I would think the manufacturer would install a drain in case of flooding or an insecure five gallon water jug spilling in your trunk, but I couldn't find one...Plan one was to get a cup and use it to bail the water out, except I didn't have a cup. Plan two was to siphon the water out using my mouth, but the water looked a little dirty and there were black things floating in it. Then plan three came along. I spotted my orange Fisk Electric ball cap and decided

after a quick look at its specifications that I could use it to bail the water out. It kind of worked. About 10 minutes later, 97 percent of the water was removed from the spare tire well and I used the paper towels from my emergency roadside repair kit to soak up the rest. It was ingenious.

...I attended a Hail and Farewell Dinner at some fancy German restaurant with my unit...I got screwed. The meal was expensive and didn't fill me up, and then I got my first assignment/job as a 2LT. I am keeper of the 326 Engineer Ark, I think... I got stuck washing these hundreds of mugs by hand, since they supposedly break if

Kevin McCormick

you put them through the dishwasher...I'm the most junior officer in the battalion...I guess it's a good thing I paid attention in home economics cause if we're ever invaded by a horde of communist bacteria traveling in beer mugs, have no fear—I'm fully trained and qualified to combat these forces of evil.

Dark

...The area I'm staying in caught on fire. It's really grassy and the winds were high today causing the brush fire to spread like crazy. You could barely outrun it in some places. So who do they call on to put the fire out? The engineers. My platoon grabbed our D handle shovels and quickly went to work trying to stop the fire. It was a losing battle, but we saved our area from being burnt up. The area we are at also houses all the ammo caches we find, so if those caught on fire, well it wouldn't have been pretty. I've singed all the hair off my arms and my boots started to catch on fire...

...We did have a car bomb that was close to where I do a lot of work, but all is okay. The past few days I've been working on an oil pipeline trying to prevent terrorists from blowing it up...hopefully we won't have to spend more than a year in this lovely country, because we are all starting to go crazy...

...The fact that you're receiving this e-mail is not good...I've never been so hungry, cold, wet, muddy and miserable in my life. My feet and hands are swollen. I think my right arm is rotting away and I can't feel my toes...



ATO's 6th BIENNIAL CONGRESS

When:
July 28-31

Where:
Atlanta, GA, Grand Hyatt Hotel in Buckhead

Who:
More than 500 ATO undergraduates and alumni

Why:
To connect with other ATOs and to pass important legislations.

How to register:
Log on to **www.ato.org**
and register via the online registration form.

or

Contact Sandra Ross at 317-684-1865 ext. 134.



*Grand Hyatt Hotel in the beautiful
Buckhead District of Atlanta, Ga.*



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Indianapolis, IN 46204

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