

The ATO BUGLE



A Publication of the Zeta Lambda Chapter, Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity

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MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

President's Message

Dear Alumni Brothers:

The Zeta Lambda chapter is off to a great start with the new year. Everyone is excited and anxious to get things rolling with the great Alpha Tau Omega tradition of the past. The year started off with an excellent rush. We were selective on the individuals that we inducted and got the quality that we were looking for. On February 22, we had a formal retreat at the Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park. The information and input that we collected from this formal retreat will be invaluable to the chapter now and for future years to come. The chapter would like to thank all the Alumni who participated in the retreat. The chapter has many events planned for the upcoming months including Frog Hop, a canoeing and camping trip, and a softball tournament. If anyone would like any information on these events call 753-7605.

Officer elections will be held on April 1. We would encourage any Alumni to come over and meet the new officers after they take their positions. Two members of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity were inducted into the Order of Omega which is a Greek Honor Society at Murray State University. They were Brian Schooley and Brandon Davis. Also, two members of the fraternity were nominated for Greek Man of the Year. Those honors went to Trevor Aikens and Brandon Davis.

Sincerely,

Brandon Davis

President, Zeta Lambda Chapter

Alumni Update:

Following a meeting on February 12, the Housing corporation and Alumni Association board began formulating plans for the next year.

As a board, we see 1997 as being critical in several areas:

One, we continue to search for ways to raise funds to pay off the debt on the chapter house. As always, it is difficult to hit up brothers for their hard earned money, yet we all know how vital this project is to our chapter and we must continue to work to finish it. And, until the debt is put behind us, the project, or dream, won't truly be complete.

Two, the board is looking at different ways of approaching the Homecoming assessment for alumni. For the last three years the Alumni Association has been forced to purchase liability insurance for Friday evening, and it has run close to \$1,000. Thus, the Homecoming assessment has been raised to \$60. However, it has come to the board's attention that the \$60 assessment has kept many brothers from attending the Friday night reception, which goes against the purpose of the event. Recognizing this problem, the board will discuss ideas to make Homecoming 1997 more affordable, as well as more enjoyable.

As a board we have been pleased with the effort the active chapter has been making in regards to the maintenance of the house. Problems of the past have been solved and the active chapter is conscientious about the taking care of their (and our) house.

Fraternally,

Steve Parker, Alumni President

HOMECOMING 1997

October 10 & 11, 1997!

Yes Homecoming and all of the excitement that goes along with it still exists at Murray State. As a matter of fact it has even gotten better the past few years.

The Friday night party at the fraternity house is certainly the highlight event for most brothers. If you have not attended a homecoming since the new fraternity house has been built, just seeing it, would be worth your effort to attend. Zeta Lambda's new home houses 25 active brothers with plenty of room for socializing in the courtyard and coach house. There are some quiet areas in the living room and board room for some of us "older" brothers to reminisce. The Annual Alumni Association meeting is held in the coach house immediately after the Saturday parade. There are always "new arrivals" at the meeting that couldn't make it on Friday night. As a matter of fact, some brothers are still there from Friday night.

You can even enjoy a good football game these days. In case you are not aware Murray State has been nationally ranked and won the OVC Championship the past two years.

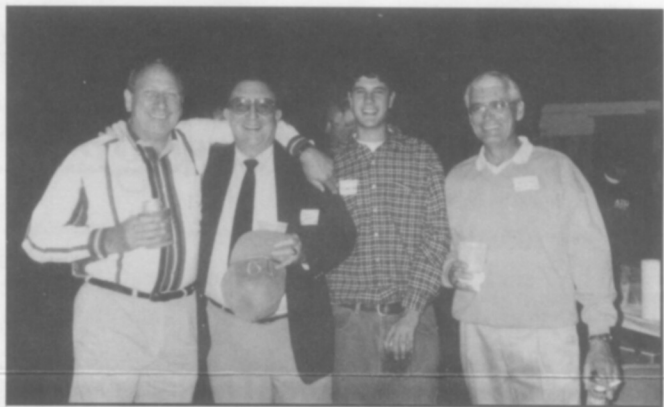
"Tent City" has become a tradition over the past several years that literally attracts several thousand people. It is located adjacent to the stadium. There is plenty to eat and you will see more old friends than you can possibly imagine.

Homecoming '97 will be the weekend of October 11th. Plan now to make it. Your brothers want to see you.

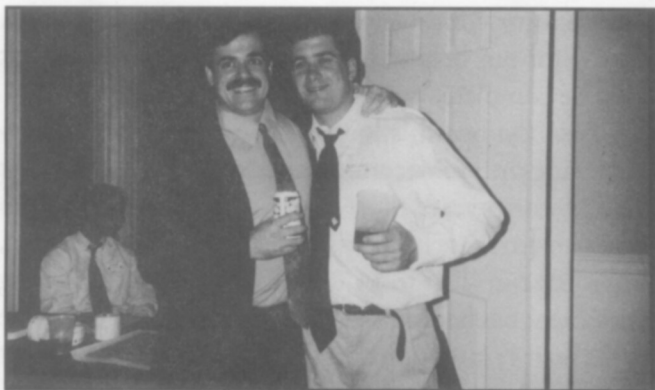
Bill Rayburn



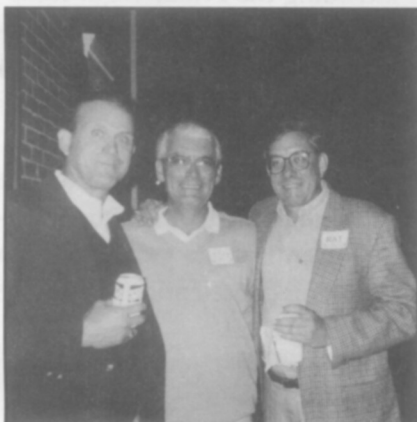
(left to right) Jack Lichtenberg, B.J. Hodge, Dave Hornback, and friend.



(left to right) Jimmy Milligan, Joe Swift, Michael Swift (active), and B.J. Hodge.



"Kool-Aid"



(left to right) Bud guy, B.J. Hodge and "Rat" Stout



Billy Joe Hodge and "Rat" Stout

— Random photos of 1996 Homecoming. —

LOOKING BACK

In looking back over the past year, one might think that we encountered many problems and that there was very little about which to be positive. Personally, I would take issue with that viewpoint. Sure, we certainly had some controversial issues arise but out of those issues arose a greater understanding of one another.

To me there were a lot of bright spots upon which we must focus. First and foremost, the active chapter rose to the occasion and realized the need for taking better care of the house. I went by the house on many days when the brothers were out working on the grounds, cleaning the gameroom or cleaning the house itself. They showed respect for the place where they live and they displayed a positive attitude about the chapter. Also, they seemed to grasp the need to be aware of liability issues as they pertain to the alumni, the active chapter officers and members of the fraternity. I was very encouraged by the manner in which they controlled their functions to reduce any potential liability.

Also, the officers saw the need to have more activities "just with the brothers" to build their internal strength. They saw that, by having functions solely limited to the brotherhood, they can develop a stronger bond among themselves. After all, it is that internal bond which strengthens one in time of tribulation.

This past summer, a lot of work was done on the house and the parking lot. Many active chapter members helped do that work to ensure that the house was not only ready for the fall semester but that the house was almost in "pristine" condition for the new occupants.

I will be honest with you, there were several instances in which issues arose and I said to myself "Please let this issue pass". They did not but they were handled the best way the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees knew how. They were handled as honestly and forthrightly as we knew how. It was a real relief when Homecoming 1996 was over and my tenure on the Board of Directors was complete. If I said anything else, I would be lying. However, in retrospect, it was also a time of challenges, hard work and involvement with great guys, both on the Boards and in the active chapter, that I shall not soon forget.

My hat is off to the active chapter, their officers, the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees! We still have accomplished the impossible! We have a great house that still sits on the corner of Main and 16th with "ATO" in big black letters over the front porch. We also have an active chapter that wants to do the right thing.

I would simply ask all alumni to become involved with the house. We are still in need of money (as always) but we have only had about 20 percent participation from the alumni. If you feel as if you have gained ANYTHING from belonging to ATO and you have not yet given to the house fund, I would implore you to give and become part owner in the property. You will never regret it! It's good to be part of something bigger than yourself.

Dave Hornback

A DECADE OF NO KEGS

If you're over 30 and haven't returned to your chapter for an undergraduate party, you may be in for a surprise...albeit a major one. Rules regulating the use of alcohol which make up part of the ATO Risk Management policy have been in place now for a decade. During the time, chapters and their members have learned new, more responsible ways to have parties.

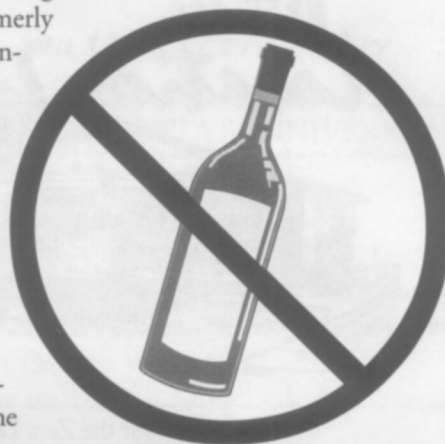
Forty-one fraternal organizations, including ATO, agreed to abide by the risk management policy of FIPG, formerly

known as Fraternity Insurance Purchasing Group. The ATO risk management policies are based on the FIPG policy. Due to the ever-increasing difficulty obtaining liability insurance for the brotherhood, it became necessary to adhere to the set of risk management

rules. Some of the rules that are a bit different than in the decades past include: no kegs or common source of alcohol, no common purchase of alcohol, no underage drinking, no hazing, no sexual harassment, no open parties, and no alcohol during rush. These policies are designed to keep our brothers safe and our brotherhood everlasting.

ATO has recently instituted a risk rating program. This program is intended to reward those chapters that are actively keeping their brothers safe and are not a risk to the Fraternity. It also penalizes the chapters that violate our policies and increase our liability exposure. A chapter that violates our policy can expect a twenty-five percent increase in insurance premiums in addition to the cost of the investigation. On the other hand, a chapter that gets good grades, has no house, or lives in a substance free chapter house receives a sizable rebate after the school year.

Although risk management is relatively new to the fraternal world, it is at its core, intended to keep our brothers safe. Social host liability is now a concern in all walks of life and is an important critical skill for our men to learn. Eighty-eight percent of all fraternal litigation involves alcohol and fraternities are the sixth most risky industry to insure (we fall in between hazardous waste disposal and surgeons.) We are not leading our lives by our ritual when we hurt our brothers and guests. Please remember that a social fraternity is defined as a forum for teaching and preparing our men for society, not having dangerous parties. We are our brothers keepers and we should always strive to be safe in our lives.



I WONDER...

If it's Super Bowl XXXI, it's been 30 years since the Tau pledge class went active. Has it been 30 years since Jerry Kramer was blocking for Bart Starr? Was it that long ago that I checked into Franklin Hall and found Dennis Seltsan in the next room? Has it been 30 years since I met Big Time Dunn at Freshman O? Was it 30 years ago that B. J. Hodge was an officer or something like that at that dress up thing we had on Thursday afternoons in Booth's ROTC?

If it has been, then it was that same Fall that I walked from the Hut that Monday evening to pledge ATO. Guess it's also been awhile since Sanford was President of Student Government. How about those winning ATO flag football teams going to "Super Bowl" with Cecil as QB. Didn't Bergele have a '57 Chevy? What ever happened to Jim Frye or Craig Spelling?

Were there really nine ATOs living at the Palace? W. M., you sleep yet? Did some ATOs really go to Kickapoo Creek Rock Fest in Strow's old Buick? How did Larry tip over Jim's Mustang? Who put Mom Spiegals' dog in the oven? Where is the old hearse and did Larry really live in it for a semester? Mitch and Sid, who are the older guys? What happened to the cannon? Did the fountain ever really work?

If you are any of your friends know the answer or think they can add to these or any other stories, please come to the new house for Homecoming '97 this Fall and let's talk and visit. Look forward to seeing you then.

Love all my brothers,
"Rat" Stout

ATO Sports

In the fall semester '96 ATO sports flourished in both football and softball. ATO went undefeated in both of these sports. After an unbeaten season in football the Taus went on to win the postseason tournament. With the tournament victory we accepted a bid to play in the Nike Sugarbowl flag football tournament. While in New Orleans we went 1-2 and advanced to round of 64 teams. This start in IFC sports has given the Taus a commanding seven point lead in the All Sports Title race.

With the beginning of the new year the outlook in basketball and raquetball has not been as promising. Even though we have lost a couple of games in both sports the overall outlook for the All Sports race is extremely good. Sports coming up in the near future are soccer, volleyball, golf, and tennis. ATO won all four of these sports last year and with a lot of good athletes returning, the ATO are sure to win our fourth title in a row and seventh out of eight.

Aaron Whitaker
Adam Grogan
Sports Chairmen

BROTHER TO BROTHER

Dave Horback's daughter is a graduate student at Indiana University while son Michael is playing tennis on scholarship for Eastern Kentucky. Dave and wife Marilyn reside in Murray.

Bill Rayburn has accepted a position as Manager, Sales and Marketing, with Rudolph's. The company is owned by Brother Robbie Rudolph and is located here in Murray.

RACER INSIDER is a new, subscription only publication that provides in-depth coverage of Murray State sports and is co-owned by Steve Parker, Sports Editor for the Murray Ledger and Times.

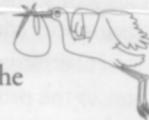


After making his home for several years in Baltimore, Mike McKinney has transferred to the Ft Worth, Texas area. He is employed in the industrial cooling business.

Doan Moorman has returned to Western Kentucky as the District Manager for Hyland Filter which is owned by Brother Mark Hyland who is based in Louisville.

Mike Hainsworth has returned home to Marshall County and lives out by the lake. He spent the last several years working in Saudi Arabia.

Tom Adams and wife Sherrie have announced the birth of a son, Parker, who joins brother Wesley and sister Rachel to complete the Adams family.



Wedding bells will ring loudly in Louisville on the second Friday in May as Mike Gunther takes the vows of matrimony.

Jamie Crady and wife Ellen are the proud parents of a son, Tristen, and Mike Atkins and his wife are expecting an addition to their family toward the end of March.

Joe Swift, has a son Micheal, who is currently an active chapter member and was the Chapter's representative in the Mr. MSU competition. Davy Carr's son Michael is also a current active chapter member.

Belated birthday wishes to Brothers Kerry Harvey and Greg Carter who we understand have passed the 40 milestone and was properly roasted by Brothers and friends at a recent birthday gathering.

Help us keep everyone informed about what's going on. A major benefit for chapter Alumni is the ability to use the ATO network to keep in touch with our Alumni Brothers. Take a few moments to write down what's happening in your life or about someone you know who has accomplished something newsworthy. Family news, career updates, moves, phone number changes or just a note to say hi are prefect to include in this column. Mail your note to: ATO Newsletter, PO Box 821, Murray, KY 42071

RUSH

The Zeta Lambda chapter of Alpha Tau Omega had one of its most successful rushes in the last few years. Our 1997 spring pledge class consists of nine men. We have one pledge from a foreign country and others from across the United States. We are highly impressed with these pledges, academically, athletically, and socially, and feel that they will be a major factor in rushing upcoming pledge classes. Our goal is to teach them Alpha Tau Omega history and brotherhood and initiate a strong new pledge class.

Denny Null, Rush Chairman

HOUSE REPORT

If you get the opportunity to be in Murray, be sure and drop by the House. You will be impressed by the appearance and cleanliness of the building and grounds. The Active Chapter is doing an outstanding job of maintaining the facility. The leadership of the Chapter is dedicated to insuring that the House is left in as good shape as they found it, and the most impressive thing is that they are aggressive in making needed repairs.

Dave Hornback spent his entire summer working at the House and completing a number of major projects. His countless hours included a complete repainting of the House and saved the Corporation several thousand dollars. Many thanks to Brother Dave for all his efforts and leadership.

The House is almost four years old now. Overall, the condition of the property is very good. Hallway carpets are beginning to show some wear and it will not be too long until we will have to think about replacement. Considering the fact that 25 Brothers live in the house and Active Chapter membership averaging 70 plus visitors and guests use the House daily, the wear and tear is certainly within acceptable limits.

The Corporation's financial position continues to be satisfactory. Our balance sheet is very strong, but, like all organizations of our type, we do experience temporary cash flow problems that cause a few additional gray hairs. These problems are to be expected when we receive the major portion of our income at the beginning of each semester. We are continuing to reduce long term debt on schedule and we are able to meet our operating budget from rental receipts.

In addition to our long term debt, we have a short term note that was used to complete the building and furnish the house. This debt needs to be retired as soon as possible. The Board has committed that all contributions made to the Housing and Alumni Corporation will be used to retire this note. The Corporation has not conducted a formal fund raising campaign since construction, but many Brothers have made contributions toward retiring this debt. We need your help if at all possible. Please send your contribution to ATO Housing and Alumni Corporation, P.O. Box 821, Murray, KY 42071. You have the Board's assurance that all contributed amounts will be used exclusively for debt retirement.

Fraternally,
David Graham

ATO Active Chapter Report

It brings me great pleasure to report that the active chapter is well and thriving. The Chapter currently has a membership of approximately 70 outstanding young men. This is the same number that the Chapter has been hovering around for several years and appears to be a good number for the Chapter. This number will probably decrease significantly in the next six to seven months. The Chapter currently has nine pledges for the Spring semester, and will be graduating 25-35 (this number may vary with final grades) members this May and December.

Murray State has been posting record enrollment for four straight semesters, but our pledge classes keep getting smaller and smaller. The number of young men who are signing up to rush has actually decreased. Of the number of people who participate in rush, those who are actually eligible to pledge has also decreased. In the Chapter's defense, the size of pledge classes all across the campus have decreased. During rush this semester, The Murray State News ran a five-page series on Fraternities and Hazing. The series consisted of articles about alcohol poisoning and people who have to "buy" their friends. Of all the articles in the series, only one was written about the benefits of Greek Life and it was written by a sorority member.

The Board of Trustees still believes that nine pledges for the Spring semester is a little low. We have encouraged the Chapter not to wait for the rush list to come out and rush only those names for one week. The Board has challenged the Chapter to think of rush as an ongoing project and they have responded by beginning a new year long rush program. The success of this program should be evident, hopefully, by the size of this fall's pledge class.

The Chapter just recently returned from a formal retreat. One of the things that they decided was to move the weekly Chapter meetings back to the Curris Center. The meetings had been held at the House, but the Chapter felt that the meetings were too social and not formal enough to conduct the chapter's business. The Chapter has also adopted a new tiered level of dues. The new rate starts at \$400 a semester. The new system rewards members for academic achievement by subtracting for certain GPA'S. A member will receive a decrease in dues for a 2.5 GPA, more for a 3.0 GPA, 3.5, and a perfect 4.0 GPA. A member will also receive a decrease for perfect attendance at meetings and House cleanups. The new system rewards brothers for being active.

The Chapter is taking steps to secure its place on Murray State's campus for years to come. We believe that this is a sign of leadership and strength. It is also a sign of unselfishness. It would be very easy for the members to sit back and relax, but they have chosen to do just the opposite. They have taken a look at themselves and decided to make some changes that will benefit the Chapter in years to come, benefits that they will not see.

The Chapter needs your support. If you are in the local area, stop by and say hello, sit down and talk to some of the members. If you are not local and cannot stop by, write a note and drop it in the mail. Let them know that the decisions that they make today impact the future of our great Chapter. Their actions today ensure all of us a place to come back to and call Home.

Brian Wilmurth

NOTICE

We are attempting to make our newsletters more alumni "friendly." We are looking for Brothers who would be willing to write an article or share an ATO story for the next newsletter. Please mail your story to:

ATO Newsletter
P.O. Box 821
Murray, KY 42071

Special Thanks

to

Brother Lanny Stegall

Whose generous contribution
helped make this newsletter possible

New Location?



Are you changing your address or do you know anyone who has recently moved? Please help us update our files.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Information for the Zeta Lambda chapter should be sent to ATO, P.O. Box 821, Murray, KY 42071.

Alpha Tau Omega
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