

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:

I would first like to thank all of the brothers who came back for the homecoming of 1997. It was another successful and entertaining homecoming.

We entered a float in the parade—something we have not done in many years. It was not the prettiest site but the effort and brotherhood were there.

Everything is running smoothly with the chapter. Everyone is concerned about our numbers, but we have sixty hard-working, active brothers striving for the betterment of our fraternity. Our achievements in the classroom still rank among the highest on campus. We continue to be the top contender in fraternity sports. Our pledgship also focuses more on academics, ritual, and leadership than before. Our members are also present in many organizations on campus: SGA, IFC, various clubs and varsity sports. All in all, the Taus remain #1.

As I mentioned before, ATO is succeeding at Murray State just like it has since May 9, 1959. We still have room for improvement. In February, we sent six brothers to the ATO Regional Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. They interacted with brothers from other chapters in the United States. Many good ideas were brought back and will be incorporated into our chapter.

We are looking forward to another exciting homecoming in 1998. Let's make it another success.

Love and Respect,

Ryan Phillips

President, Zeta Lambda Chapter

The Real World

Brandon Davis

No more American Pies. No more stage diving, which happened to be one of my favorite party time activities. No more meetings. I still wonder how anything was achieved during our meetings. Good-bye to all of what ATO and MSU were to me.

Hello bills, bosses, quotas, objectives, co-workers, suit and tie and everything else associated with the real world. Hello to all of it.

It has been roughly seven months since I made the big leap from relaxed irresponsibility to stressed-out accountability. I have gone from a relatively big fish in a little pond to a minnow in the ocean.

But this has all happened before and not only to me. I am sure it has happened to you also. My immersion into the real world could be compared with my high school days. I can remember being a freshmen watching the big guys with the cool cars, cute chicks and loaded letter jackets. These days the older guys still have cool cars and cute chicks, only now their bank accounts are what's loaded.

One thing I realized in high school and still today is that everyone has to pay their dues. My pledge brother Scott Robbins once told me shortly before heading off to law school, "Gotta pay your dues man, you gotta pay your dues." He wasn't talking about me paying money to the treasurer either.

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News...News...News...

House Report

The 100 plus brothers who attended Homecoming 97 had never seen the house looking better. The active chapter had completely landscaped all around the house and even added a number of beautiful mums. Their bright colors made everyone welcome to the house.

Since homecoming, the chapter has redecorated the Carriage House with some stain and personalized painting. It looks really nice and added a lot to the appearance of the meeting room.

The active chapter continues to maintain the house to high standards. The main house almost always has a neat and orderly appearance, and the grounds are being kept free of trash and debris.

The only concern with the house is the appearance of the downstairs hallway carpets. They are beginning to show the wear and tear of the traffic they receive. It will not be long until we will have to start thinking about replacements.

Other than that, the current house crew and active chapter is extended our appreciation for keeping the house and its appearance in excellent condition. Special thanks to the house manger Lee Jay Smith for his leadership role in accomplishing this mission. ATΩ

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of the
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Send Your Contributions to:
ATO

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Murray, KY 042071

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Sports Summary

Lance Hanni, Sports Chairman



The Alpha Tau Omega fall sports season ended in another undefeated season in football. The squad would have made its annual trip to New Orleans to represent Murray State, had it not been for the MSU campus recreation department missing the entry deadline for the tournament. ATO finished the fall half of the all sports season with a slim lead in cumulative points.

Basketball, soccer, and volleyball will be the major point events up for grabs in the spring. Bowling, racquetball, and golf will round out the sports in the spring as "minors." We will feature many new faces and young brothers on most of our teams this spring, hoping to "re-load" and not "rebuild", attempting to find groups of younger brothers who will play well together and mold together now, and for upcoming seasons of competition.

Zeta Lambda plans to complete the 97-98 year on top of all other fraternities in total all sports points. Fierce competition still exists from many of our rival fraternities attempting to duplicate our annual dominance in sports.

Our Spring 98 pledge class offers four or five outstanding athletes who will prove to be major contributors in seasons to come after they are activated. They all have numerous high school athletic achievements under their belts and will be significant contributors in the future. ATΩ



Board Report

Steve Parker

This is the first time we've gotten together since Homecoming and, thankfully, there's not a lot to report. As you all know, in a fraternity, sometimes no news is good news.

We sincerely hope that the nearly 100 alumni who returned enjoyed themselves; the feedback has been positive. We're also interested to know what the alumni thought of the "no assessment" policy which was instituted this year.

A decision on whether we will continue to impose no cover charge has not been made, but this year we came out slightly ahead financially compared to the year before when a \$60 cover charge was assessed.

As stated at the annual board meeting, the alumni/housing board will be looking into fund-raising options in the very near future. The short-term note, which was taken out to buy furnishings for the chapter house, has become a problem. We are making payments on the approximately \$30,000 note, but that money should be going to pay down the original note.

One recent concern among the board is the decreasing size of the active chapter. When the new house project was put together, it was believed that an active chapter of 100 members would provide enough income to the alumni board, through rent payments, to pay off the long-term note. However, the active chapter's numbers have fallen from 100 four years ago to below 65 currently.

As alumni, we make a conscious effort to stay out of active chapter affairs (i.e. rush, bids, social events), except when they impact the chapter house. Low chapter size, due to the decreasing size of recent pledge classes, is not necessarily the actives' fault. As a rule, the number of students on campus signing up for rush has dwindled from what it once was. As most of you know, fraternities nationwide are suffering a major public relations crisis.

All in all, the fraternity—house, active chapter and alumni association—is in good order. What few problems we do have will be addressed in the near future. ATO

This & That...

BRIAN WILMURTH is fulfilling his wish to work with young people by being a teacher in the Calloway County School system. **BRIAN** and his wife Molly live in Murray.

LOMAN BROWN now has a web site: <http://www.lomanbrown.com>. He says now that is a local call, he hopes **JIMMY STORY** can give him a call. For those of us who are not computer gurus, you can call Loman via the traditional method at 330-659-9341

Congratulations to **DAVE WASHBURN** who made Jennifer Miller his bride on January 3rd in Louisville.

BRYAN BELL is calling Franklin, TN home along with wife Jennifer and sons, Carter and Brandon, both whom are 21 months old. He is General Manager of K & S Imaging.

Congratulations to **TRENT BATES** who is serving ATO as Chairman of the Zeta Lambda Board of Trustees. This group serves as advisors to the active chapter.

And finally, congratulations to **RICHARD STRODE**, whose son **JASON**, is a legacy pledge in our current pledge class. Richard, Jason and family still make their home in Owensboro, KY.

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The other day I saw this quote that said, "Life is a journey, not a destination." I think life is several journeys to ever changing destinations. You can put that one in Bartlett's under my name. Really though, we all take many different routes to get where we want to go. It is amazing how focused one becomes when a stack of bills is staring him in the face.

I really don't know if I have gained a great deal of knowledge these last seven months. I do know that when in doubt, I put my nose to the ground and go at it. Eventually everything will make sense and the work will pay off. I look forward to seeing everyone at homecoming. And please share all your post-ATO school times with me. But, I don't want to talk to anyone that has a cushy job, you can keep that to yourself. ATO

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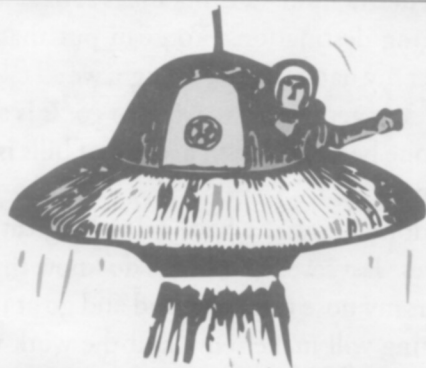
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NOTICE...

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



MOVING?

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.