

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar

The board of trustees and undergraduate chapter are coordinating an Alumni Golf Tournament and Crawfish Broil for summer 2006. Dates will be set soon. Stay tuned for updates at www.atogatech.org. We hope you'll attend!

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ALUMNI TRIBUTE

'He Was a Natural Leader and the Coolest Guy in the World, with a Great Sense of Humor'

A Tribute to Jack Wilson '61, from Three Men Who Knew Him Well

Jack Wilson '61 is remembered as a business leader who was deeply involved in civic concerns, and a devoted family man. He was also a good friend and brother, and a proud member of Alpha Tau Omega. He passed away on December 5, 2005, of Alzheimer's disease at age 66.

As an undergraduate, Jack served a year as worthy master of the Beta Iota Chapter. His fraternity experience "helped him discover and sharpen his leadership skills, which stood him in good stead for the rest of his life," says his brother **Bill Wilson '64**. Jack was also in the Interfraternity Council and played varsity baseball for three years, reaching the NCAA regionals one year, Bill says.

Ennis Parker '64 met Jack in September

1960, when Jack was chapter president and Ennis was a pledge. "I thought he was the coolest guy in the world. He was extraordinarily capable and articulate, and a natural leader. He was very active and visible on campus," Ennis says of his longtime friend and former big brother in ATO.

"I have many warm memories of him at the fraternity house," he says. "Jack was pleasant to everybody. He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed practical jokes."

Dick Johnston '62, who met Jack in 1958, recalls, "The fraternity then was very close. Jack was one of the strongest influences of that

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Jack Wilson with house mother Ann Scottrom in 1961

ALUMNI Q+A

A Conversation with Bert Thornton '68 about ATO, the Fraternity Experience and Finding a Mentor

'I Don't Know One Successful Person Who Didn't Have a Mentor'

Bert Thornton '68 is president and COO of Waffle House. Mr. Thornton — who enjoys playing golf; hunting deer, elk and birds; and saltwater fishing — prefers spending the bulk of his free time relaxing with his wife and three daughters. He has also been active with the Georgia Tech Foundation, Georgia Tech Alumni Association and other organizations through Tech.

The following interview was conducted by **Ryan Ely** at the Waffle House corporate offices:

Why did you become an ATO?

I pledged because the brothers at the time were a super-strong group of guys. I knew ATO would be a positive force both in college and the rest of my life.

Describe your experiences at Tech.

I played football under Bobby Dodd, but athletes at that time were not

(Continued on Page 2)



Bert Thornton '68

ALUMNI TRIBUTE

(Continued from Page 2)

group. He was skilled in leadership and was very genuine. He had a lot of fun but kept everything in balance.”

“Leader” and “leadership” are words that come up often in any discussion about Jack Wilson. After he earned his bachelor’s degree in industrial management on a Navy ROTC scholarship, he served a three-year tour in the Navy, stationed in Japan as a supply officer. Then he studied at Harvard Business School and received his MBA in the late 1960s. The Georgia native eventually became one of the top commercial real estate developers in Florida, after founding The Wilson Company in Tampa in 1980.

He was instrumental in numerous major office and rental-apartment building projects and was prominently involved in community affairs, even volunteering as chairman of the Tampa Bay Super Bowl XXXV Task Force in 2000-01, leading the effort to raise money

“Is leadership innate or is it developed? I believe the skills must be there, and then the opportunity must be taken for them to be honed. Jack took that opportunity and made the most of it.”

— Dick Johnston '62

from the local business community to bring the Super Bowl to Tampa.

He had a life-long interest in sports, and had also led the push to secure county financing to construct Raymond James Stadium in Tampa and was a primary force

in constructing Legends Field, a minor-league facility for the New York Yankees.

“His fraternity experience helped him discover and sharpen his leadership skills, which stood him in good stead for the rest of his life.”

— Bill Wilson '64

Jack also served terms heading local economic development organizations such as the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, the Tampa Bay Partnership and the Westshore Alliance (which he cofounded). In 2001, he was welcomed into the Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame.

He and his wife Carolyn had four children — two sons and two daughters. A son and a daughter now work at The Wilson Company.

Bill says Jack was exceptionally devoted to his family, even as a boy. “When we were growing up, and he and his friends were doing things, he allowed me to be part of the group. Even though I was two years younger, I was always included,” he says.

“Jack was very caring,” Bill adds. “He and I talked regularly over the years. He was always available and interested and offered input on whatever was going on in my life.” Discussing Jack’s life, though, was often a challenge, since he was very modest, says Bill. “I didn’t know about half his business accomplishments until I read about them on his company’s Web site.”

“He had a remarkable ability to set a standard of behavior that other people wanted to emulate,” says Ennis Parker, who likewise served a term as chapter president, in part due to being inspired by Jack. “He was very sharp, a great friend and a warm human being.”

Dick Johnston asks, “Is leadership innate or is it developed? I believe the skills must be there, and then the opportunity must be taken for them to be honed. Jack took that opportunity and made the most of it. I am left with two strong impressions of Jack’s life: leadership and character. I worked with Jack in chapter leadership positions, the IFC and the Ramblin’ Wreck Club. It was clear Jack always exhibited the highest character. It is also clear to me that he was a true leader even in those days.

“The influence of his character will be continued through his wife and children.”



At a long-ago formal (L-R): **Dave Peake '60** (who later died of causes similar to Jack’s) and unnamed friend, **Dick Johnston '62** and wife Pat, **Jack Wilson '61** and Carolyn (who became his wife), **Smets Blich '61** and Martha (who married Dave Peake), and **Bob Bennett '61** and unnamed friend. (Photo provided by **Dick Johnston**.)

ALUMNI Q+A

(Continued from Page 2)

pedestal-ized like they are today. All students had the same goal: to get an education. I joined a fraternity, like many of the athletes, to expand my horizons and surround myself with good people. ATO played a huge role in my life in terms of values. We had an exceptional group of brothers with great values and work ethics. So, for me, that became the norm. I have enjoyed the benefits of that early association with those brothers and still enjoy it today.

Do you think everyone could benefit from the same type of experiences ATO offered you?

Yes. The broader your college experience, the better. The contacts you make in college are the contacts you’ll enjoy for the rest of your life. They form the basis for a life and business network that will be so valuable later. I would not be here without ATO.

What one piece of advice would you give the new brothers at ATO?

Life is not about one piece of advice. Find a mentor. A mentor helps you form the social and political aspects of your life. I know a

lot of successful people, and I don’t know one who didn’t have a mentor at some point. Find the right mentor who can give you all the right advice to be successful. The more respected your mentor is, the greater your chances of success.

Who was your mentor?

I have had a couple of them: my father, Lib Julian (former Waffle House COO) and **Joe Rogers Jr. '65**. They have done an outstanding job for me.

BOARD REPORT

Board Is Working Closely with the Chapter to Help the Undergraduates Surpass All Expectations for the Year

Interested in Joining the Board? Your Time and Effort Will Be Welcomed by All Brothers

By Chad Vickery '97, Chairman

The board of trustees began 2006 working with a fine group of new ATO officers. They are excited and eager to make this year exceed all expectations for the entire chapter. The undergraduates have obviously been working hard on all aspects of their ATO college

experience, including the chapter GPA, rush, intramurals and social events. The board is eager to help the chapter meet all their goals for this year.

A new tradition was adopted this semester by the board. The graduating worthy master is now to serve on the board for one year upon graduation. **Peter Stewart '05** is the first "president emeritus" to begin this tradition. We are grateful to have his presence and continued leadership on the board.

As a service to the chapter, the board of trustees is helping facilitate a series of career nights. The intent is for an alumnus working in a particular field to offer a question-and-answer presentation. The popular career requests from the chapter are for MEs, IEs and doctors. If any of you are interested in giving such a presentation, please do not hesitate to contact me or any board member.

This could be a great networking tool for all participants.

The board is always looking for alumni who are willing to meet with and provide support to the chapter once per month. If you live in the Atlanta area and are interested

The undergraduates are working hard on all aspects of their ATO experience, including GPA, rush, intramurals and social events.

in supporting the Beta Iota Chapter by becoming a board member, please contact me. We are looking for young and not-so-young alumni and anywhere in between. Your time and effort will be welcomed and appreciated by all brothers.

You can reach me at 770-424-3447.

STATE OF THE CHAPTER

Beta Iota Brothers Continue to Prove Their Leadership Skills and Abilities in Every Aspect of Campus Life

Thank You to Our Board of Trustees for Their Continual Support and Dedication

By Charlie Warendb

Alpha Tau Omega's National Congress will be held in Austin, Texas, this summer, and we are planning on sending several brothers to represent our chapter. Additionally, this summer three of our brothers will be attending the ATO-sponsored Leadershape session to continue our constant pursuit of creating strong and effective leaders.

Currently our chapter is more involved than ever with campus organizations. Both

the Interfraternity Council president and vice president of programming are ATOs and have done a wonderful job of representing our chapter. Beta Iota brothers continue to prove their leadership skills and abilities in every aspect of campus life, from athletics to philanthropy. Recently we have been focusing much of our attention toward raising money for Georgia Tech's Relay for Life, to be held in April. We are among the top contributors and would appreciate your support!

To help you be more informed about the chapter, we are working on creating a periodic e-newsletter. Additionally, we are revamping the alumni section of our Web site, including all the *Beta Iota Blueprint* articles and pictures from the past century!

Don't forget you can also read about the latest Beta Iota accomplishments at www.ATORoadShow.org.

I would like to thank everyone, particularly our board of trustees, for their continual support and dedication to Beta Iota. If you have any questions, concerns or comments, feel free to contact me at warendh@gatech.edu or 404-713-8317.



The proud undergraduate brothers of Beta Iota.

Have You Been To Our Website Lately?

Check out www.atogatech.org for:

- Photo Albums
- Searchable Online Directory
- Archived Issues of The Glazebrook Gazette



ALUMNI UPDATES

90s

Steven A. Morin '92

(961 Cumberland Terr., Davie, FL 33325; steve.morin@towerquest.com) All is well with my family, and I am still working on wireless towers. We saw Greg Golden '93 and his family last summer in New Jersey. We are just trying to survive all the South Florida hurricanes. Amy is pregnant with our second child, and Ethan just turned 2. We plan on moving to Tallahassee in a couple of years.

We Want to Hear from You!

Your news is an essential element to our newsletter and website. Please take a few moments to submit an update about yourself online at www.atogatech.org! Whether you've recently gotten married, started a new career, had a baby, or reached your retirement years, your ATO friends are eager to about it!

Invitation for a Chateau Adventure in France, from Ken Kirk '64

In November, my French bride Claire and I purchased a chateau plus 16 outbuildings on 52 acres just south of Le Mans, bordering the Sarthe River. We are able to sleep 156, but about half that number are dormitory accommodations.



Ken says: "This is the grand salon. The entire downstairs has the most beautiful oak I have ever seen in a building or house. It has oak paneling throughout, including oak parquet floors and even oak ceilings. The condition of this 100-year-old wood is near perfect, due to a process of having been soaked in the adjacent Sarthe River for seven to 10 years."

It would be such a pleasure to welcome ATOs traveling to France! I especially like the idea of several couples traveling together, and with us they could use the property as a base while exploring Europe. (The overhead at the chateau necessitates a reasonable charge, however.) The TGV from Le Mans to Paris only takes 54 minutes! It would be grand to see old friends and hear some Southern drawl. See www.RiveSarthe.com. Please come visit!



There's plenty of room for company in this historic chateau that sleeps 156!

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A tribute to the late Jack Wilson, and much more news! Read inside!