

## UPCOMING EVENT

**Homecoming**  
October 17  
vs. Virginia Tech

## 2009 FOOTBALL

9/5: Jacksonville State (1 p.m.)  
9/10: Clemson (7:30 p.m.)  
9/17: at Miami (7:30 p.m.)  
9/26: North Carolina (TBA)  
10/3: at Mississippi (TBA)  
10/10: at Florida State (TBA)  
10/17: Virginia Tech (TBA)  
10/24: at Virginia (TBA)  
10/31: at Vanderbilt (TBA)  
11/7: Wake Forest (TBA)  
11/14: at Duke (TBA)  
11/28: Georgia (TBA)

See page 2 for planned ATQ reunions this fall, and for info on how to plan one for your era...

## ON THE WEB

**Are You Registered at  
[www.atogatech.org](http://www.atogatech.org)?**

**If not, be sure to do so today!**

As a registered user, you can:

- Search for brothers' contact info in the online directory
- Browse the online photos and post personal albums
- Read and share alumni updates
- Register for upcoming events
- And much more!

If you don't yet have a username and password for the site, use your Member ID (above your name and address on this newsletter) to follow the First Time Login instructions on the home page.



# THE GLAZEBROOK GAZETTE

ATO at Georgia Tech • Atlanta, Ga. • September 2009

[www.atogatech.org](http://www.atogatech.org)

## ALUMNI REPORT

### The Beta Iota Capital Campaign: Preserving Your Legacy, Ensuring Our Future

#### An Update on our Progress

By John Robertson '66

Our June edition of the *Gazette* talked about our progress in raising \$1.5 million for improvements at the house and to put the Beta Iota Corporation in a position to maintain it in the future. We have made some progress over the summer that I would like to share with you:

We are up to a little over \$400,000 in pledges and gifts from the Chapter, our ERA Captains, our Class Agents and initial members of our "Leadership Circle." We are still in the "silent phase" of our campaign, striving to secure sizeable gifts that will ensure our success. We are meeting regularly and working hard to make it happen.

We decided to attack some of the house's problems **now** with some of the funds beginning to flow from pledges made earlier this year. The Chapter, using its own resources (manpower and dues), tackled the front yard challenge and the first floor. The entire lawn was cultivated by hand and successfully replanted and landscaped. The walls and interior of the first floor were prepped by the Chapter and professionally painted. The Beta Iota Corporation, under the leadership of **Louis Todd '84**, reworked all nine HVAC systems and placed them under a service contract to protect this investment. Please thank **Scott Johnson, WM**, and Louis for this great work. We will tackle the roof this fall and see what's required to get it in good shape.

#### By now most of you know our plan:

- ✓ Fix known living/life safety issues (fire sprinkler systems, HVAC, roof, eaves, gutters, bathrooms).
- ✓ Overhaul our finances (eliminate debt, establish a capital maintenance fund, reset room rents and agreements).



*We decided to attack some of the house problems now with some of the funds beginning to flow from pledges made earlier this year.*

- ✓ Install routine maintenance systems with inspections and accountability.

#### What I want to be sure you know is why we are doing all this:

- ✓ The Chapter continues to demonstrate its vitality and deservedness—2.97 GPA/successful Fall Rush/**third** True Merit Award in a row/individual awards from National for recruitment/finances/philanthropy/leadership development/member education.
- ✓ We owe this generation the support it needs to continue to thrive; and we owe it to ourselves to give them the type of living arrangement we enjoyed. We have 121 years of ATQ at Tech to protect!

If you are in a position to help in a big way and be a part of our "Leadership Circle," I sincerely solicit your support. ATQ needs you **now!** Contact me at 770-403-8417 or [johnrobertson@wafflehouse.com](mailto:johnrobertson@wafflehouse.com) if you want to help or have questions.

## CHAPTER REPORT

### Active Brothers Support Beta Iota House Improvement Projects

#### Chapter GPA Ranks 7<sup>th</sup> out of 33 Tech Fraternities; Set Sights on True Merit and Best Chapter Awards

By Scott Johnson, Worthy Master

Greetings, alumni! We're excited about the major changes taking place at the Beta Iota Chapter house, and ask you to join us in supporting the renovation project. More than 60 brothers have made financial pledges to the capital campaign, payable following graduation.

In addition to our financial support, active members are "getting their hands dirty" to help with property improvements. Sixty brothers woke up at 6 a.m. on Tech Beautification Day to till the yard by hand,

spread top soil and plant seed. Now, after a few months, we have a yard full of green grass. Also, our Yard Manager **J.C. Eick** worked hard to create a mulched area around the edge of the yard. We planted four trees and plenty of plants with generous donations from Mrs. Radakovich.

Our main summer project was to renovate the first floor of the house. The entire main floor was professionally painted including the chapter room, Noonan Room, Alumni Room, and Men's and Women's Bathrooms.

We recently received our Spring 2009 grade reports and are happy to report that we finished with a 2.97 GPA. This was 7<sup>th</sup> highest on campus, out of 33 fraternities, and well above the All Men's Average. We also received our third consecutive True Merit award.

We had a successful fall and things are looking great. We pledged 18 fine young men for the 4<sup>th</sup> biggest class on campus. Please come by the house during football season. We plan to have coffee and donuts after the games. Please come by and see us!

## ALUMNI EVENTS

### Fall Reunion Activities Are Heating Up!

By John Robertson '66

ATΩ alumni are kicking off the football season with two big reunions! Here's what I know so far:

#### '50s

**Bill Collins, Nathan Sears** and the '50s group held a great get-together on September 5 for the first game of the season. There was a big crowd at the House before the game as well as a lot of cheering going on for the Jackets at the game. A social/dinner was held at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center after the game. This group has been doing this year after year, with more and more attending at each event. Way to go! Keep the

brotherhood alive!

#### '60s

I anticipate almost 200 brothers, spouses and guests will be in Atlanta on September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> for an exciting weekend of catching up and having fun. We have folks coming from all over the country to attend—some were hard to find but, once located, easy to sign up. We have a Friday night hospitality get-together at the Georgia Tech Hotel, campus tours on Saturday morning, a lunch and social at the House, and a dinner/dance at the Klaus Atrium. It will be a great event, and we will capture all the festivities and add it to

a DVD with all of our other reunions on it. Oh, to be so young again! We'll let you know all about it!

I encourage all generations to get started on planning a reunion. Not only is it great fun, it's also a way to reconnect with the finest group of men and women in your life. Don't wait for someone to plan it for you. All you have to do is decide it's worth doing and start contacting your lifelong ATΩ friends! Get started at [www.atogatech.org](http://www.atogatech.org). If you get together with brothers from your era this season, let us know, and we'll publish your pictures and stories for all to see!

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Which Era Had the Most Fun?

As we continue to come across great old photos from our chapter's history - including this one from the 1953 *Blueprint* (side note: find a link to online archived issues of *Blueprint* at [www.atogatech.org](http://www.atogatech.org)) - we can't help but wonder...**which era of our history had the most fun?**

These guys look like they're having a great time

with their dates before a party in 1953, but does your era have them beat? Let us be the judge! Share your stories, memories and photos at [www.atogatech.org](http://www.atogatech.org) (or email them to [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com) - just mention ATΩ at Tech), and we'll publish them in upcoming editions of the *Gazette* and our monthly e-Letter.



## It's Not About You, It's About Other People

### Waffle House CEO Credits His Successful Career to His ATΩ Experience

**Walt Ehmer '89's** decision to join Alpha Tau Omega was not much different than the reasons we probably joined. "It started with some high school friends I knew who were ATΩs," Walt said, "So I had some connections to the group of people."

Dating back to initiation, Walt knew he had found a great group of guys to help him get through the process. His fondest memory of pledging was just getting through it. "It was a role of achievement and to be a part of something I really respected and admired," Walt said. "You belonged to something special."

One of his favorite times of the year while living in the house was the annual Hawaiian party held in early May. This party was known to reach epic proportions which did not go unnoticed, being rated by *Playboy* magazine as one of the top parties in the country. Even with the hype surrounding the party, Walt notes his favorite part as the planning and hard work that began weeks and months prior to the party itself.

"Everyone came together with a common purpose and everyone contributed in some way, and that ends up drawing everyone together," Walt said. This meant everything from collecting dozens of trees and hundreds of bamboo stalks to digging a pool and building giant structures. The dedication to this endeavor was a true demonstration of the camaraderie of the brothers.

"The party was a culmination of all that, but the real memories were sitting around and working on the project all of spring," Walt said, adding that it took the strength of the entire fraternity to pull off a project of that magnitude.

Being a brother in ATΩ taught him a lot that has carried into his adult life and his career as well. "Something that rings true to me today that probably got off the ground then was learning that it's not about you, it's about other people. It's

about everyone else," Walt said. His ability to put the group's interests above his own has translated into how he approaches his job today as President and CEO of Waffle House.

"It's not about us, it's about the folks working in the restaurant everyday. Those are the most important people," he said.

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***"You don't realize it at the time, but the friendships you make while you're in ATΩ in some way or form will influence the rest of your life."***

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He credits this modest demeanor as a way of life that began with the brotherhood, which is something Walt personally defines as a lasting bond among friends. "A long-term relationship or connection, if you will, and it is based on shared experiences; be it staying up all night studying or going to a party or being there when people needed someone," he said.

Those experiences he had with brothers during his undergraduate years have now become a part of his everyday life. Walt said he keeps in touch with many brothers including **Mark Weltlich, Dan Gatley, Will Mizell, Jeff Cole, Louis Todd, Greg Rollins, John Simmons, Rick Blanchard** and "many others." Many of these brothers he works with today at Waffle House, citing that most of them are pledge brothers.

At the start of his career, he worked at Allen Bradley as a sales engineer right out of Georgia Tech. Walt worked there for three years with five brothers from the fraternity. Then another brother persuaded him to take a look at what would become his employer for the past 17 years. "At the time, Jeff Cole convinced me to interview with Waffle House, so the fraternity connection has been completely blended with my career." Walt has worked in

almost every facet of the company, starting as a buyer in the Purchasing Department, and then moving on to Finance, General Management and eventually his current position as President and CEO which he has held for the past three and a half years.

Even while advancing his career, Walt has remained a strong family man. He married his high school sweetheart, Cindy, and they have three children, Greg, Anna Kate and Lesley. It appears that the kids may be looking to follow in their Dad's footsteps as talk of attending Georgia Tech has been circulating for some time now, although the youngest, Lesley, claims her interest lies in her mother's alma mater, UGA.

Despite the demands of juggling work and family life, Walt still finds time to give back to ATΩ and Georgia Tech. "I learned to be very grateful for all of the help and support I received from so many people and so many places," Walt said. "One of those places I think is a big part of who I am today and where I am today is ATΩ." He hopes that his financial contributions will allow other people in the future to have similar experiences to his.

"You don't realize it at the time, but the friendships you make while you're in ATΩ in some way or form will influence the rest of your life," Walt said. Something that he learned from the brothers that carries into life today is loyalty, saying that he could call any of them knowing they would do anything for him and he would do the same for them.

Always quick to give credit where he believes it should be, Walt said Alpha Tau Omega is what originally positioned him to succeed and grow into the person he is today.

"In a lot of ways, it has been the foundation for my adult life in all aspects, from friendships to even family and professional relationships and my connection back with the school," he said.

**Do you know a Beta Iota alum who has an interesting story to tell? Send an email to our editors at [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com) (mention ATΩ at Georgia Tech), and we'll consider him for a profile in an upcoming edition of the *Gazette*!**

# ALUMNI UPDATES

## '60s

### John "Pels" Matthews '66

(36 East Wharf Road, Madison, CT 06443; jmatthews.jma@snet.net) I was honored as the Citizen of the Year by the Madison, CT Chamber of Commerce recently. I'm looking forward to the '60s September event and hope to see lot of old friends there!

### John Harden '69

(2716 Margaret Mitchell Dr., NW, Atlanta, GA 30327; jhdmd@bellsouth.net) After graduating in March of 1969 I worked for Lockheed Aircraft for about four months and then took a position with the Coca-Cola Company where I stayed until June of 1973. At that time I made a career change and went back to Tech and received the BS & MS degrees in biology. From there I went to the

Medical College of GA School of Dentistry and graduated in 1978. Later on I completed a residency training program at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

I spent 22 years in the US Army including both active duty and reserve service. I retired in 2003 as a Colonel. In 2002 I was called back to active duty by the Army and served in the War on Terrorism in SW Asia right



after the 911 tragedy as the Theater Dental Surgeon for SW Asia.

I live in Buckhead with my wife Jackie. We have two sons age 35 and 28, and four grandchildren. Jackie is in the anesthesia department at Piedmont Hospital and my dental office is at Emory University Hospital Midtown. At ages 61 and 65 respectively we don't have any plans to retire any time soon as we are still enjoying our respective careers.

I have fond memories of the ATΩ house and the good times during the 1960s. I am really looking forward to the reunion.

*We want to know what's new with you too! Share your update and photos online at [www.atogatech.org](http://www.atogatech.org).*

*Did you have a great time in ATΩ? Do you have the stories and pictures to prove it? Share your great times with us, and we'll publish the best of the best in upcoming issues of the Gazette. See page 2 for details...*



- *And More!*
  - *Inside the Life of Waffle House CEO*
  - *Beta Iota on a Quest for Best ATΩ Chapter Award*
  - *Capital Campaign Pledges Approach \$400,000 Mark*
- In this Issue...*

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