We're Wiped Out!!!



WE'RE FLUSHSTRATED! The Theta Alpha Historical Archive has ZIP, ZERO, ZILCH pictures for the above Ball State calendar school years!

Do you have pics from any of these years?

Come on, guys! If you were at Ball State in any of the years listed above (or any other year for that matter), PLEASE take a few minutes to drag out that scrapbook or box of memorabilia and share your photos for the Archive.

Scan them and submit to rusty.bruce59@gmail.com, or send returnable hard copies to Rusty Bruce at 11011 Treyburn Drive, Fishers, IN 46037. If possible, please supply a date (year), people shown, and a brief description or story.

Please help – we've got more than a decade of memories missing in the Archive.



Dloggo rogistor today 9 consider sponsorship

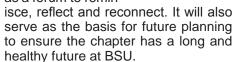
NEWS FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF THETA ALPHA CHAPTER - BALL STATE

Your chance to re-engage

Fellow Brothers,

I am honored and privileged to serve as the recently-appointed Vice President of the Theta Alpha Alumni Association (TAAA). Commencing this past winter, the TAAA has been reactivated and a committee coordinating our 50-yr.celebration formed.

During recent contact, I've urged that you encourage your pledge/classmates to attend. The 50-yr. celebration serves as a forum to remin-



I made a promise and commitment to ATO and Theta Alpha - written in a document to our Worthy Grand Chief in 1983. It stated, "My involvement with ATO will not end with graduation. I not only plan to be active in all alumni functions with my chapter, I plan to be active with the national fraternity." It goes on to say, "One should not be so unfortunate to let their involvement (with ATO) end with graduation." I have not kept that promise as intended, due to family and career obligations – thus placing a majority of the chapter burden on the same few brothers. You know who those brothers are. I'm sure many of you feel the same. This October is your chance to reengage.

I look forward to seeing you all this coming October.

▼

With love and respect.

Zmyslo

V.P., Theta Alpha Alumni Association

Please register today & consider sponsorship

In the fall of 2020, a group of alumni gathered one evening at a cigar bar on the northeast side of Indianapolis. There, initial discussion began about an event to celebrate Theta Alpha's 50th anniversary. Covid temporarily stalled our plans. But the ideas introduced that evening from Tom Perkins, Jeff De Witt, Todd Stallings, Rusty Bruce, John Millspaugh and myself were eventually formalized and the ATO Theta Alpha 50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend program was in full motion.

As we close in on October 28th, we urge Theta Alpha alumni to visit the alumni menu at **www.atobsu.org** and click on the 50th Anniversary Weekend to review the celebration itinerary. There you'll notice a number of events and options — everything from a Friday evening Welcome Reception to the Sunday morning Good-Of-The-Order, and ten different activities in-between. The itenerary will be updated as we move forward.



We've made every attempt to make our 50th Anniversary celebration a low cost endeavor. But if you remember your college days, you'll understand that some of our undergraduate members are on very tight budgets. As such, we are looking for able alumni to "sponsor" an undergrad to attend the main event of our weekend — Saturday night's 50th Anniversary Banquet. Please consider helping by simply clicking the Sponsor an Undergrad link.

We felt it was important for Ball State to benefit from our gathering, so we selected the beautiful Ball State Alumni Center as the venue for our Banquet. We will have an open bar and the Ball State Catering Department will prepare the meal. An enjoyable program will follow.

Completed in 1997, the Ball State Alumni Center was designed by the internationally-renowned architectural firm Pei, Cobb, Freed, and Partners, designers of the Louvre addition in Paris and the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. It features a 47-foot high glass conservatory with palm trees.



Please note that Alumni Center can comfortably accommodate only 240 guests. Given that we now have 700 alumni, it's important that if you plan to attend, you need to click on the Event Registration link on the website and choose your payment option. We will need to limit registration to the first 240 paid guests – so please register now!

Love and respect,

Steve Nall President, Theta Alpha Alumnni Association

2010: Brother John Towle is Homecoming Royalty



"All I remember is hearing the large contingent from Chi Omega and Alpha Tau Omega go absolutely insane."

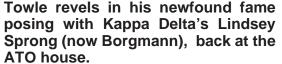
That's what a stunned John Towle (Founders II, 2011) recalled after he was crowned King of 2010's Ball State Homecoming (along with lovely Queen Morgan Smith of Chi Omega).

Towle, then a senior sociology and history major, was somewhat tricked into being nominated when ATO's president at that time, Matt Schafer (Founders II, 2011) told Towle to sign a document "because it was necessary for the fraternity."

Crowned after 21 acts performed at BSU's annual "Air Jam" talent competition before a packed Emens Auditorium, Towle told BSU's Daily News reporter Ben Cronk that members of his fraternity were his biggest supporters: "To me it's more of a group achievement, than an individual achievement."

The Daily News article also quoted Brother Colin Warner (Founders II, 2011), "I was amazed John was announced as king but wasn't all that surprised. John is the type of guy who would do anything for anybody. He's got so many friends and a dynamite personality. It's really no wonder he was awarded with that golden crown."

John is Senior Manager at Knowledge Services, the nation's largest government Management Services Provider (MSP) in Fishers and lives with his wife of five years, Caitlin Moulton, in Noblesville, Indiana.





John Towle wasn't the only winner during Ball State's 2010 Homecoming festivities.

One of BSU's most popular Homecoming traditions is the annual Bed Race down Riverside Avenue. Thousands lined the street to watch 46 teams compete – and see overall winner Alpha Tau Omega Team 2 take home the trophy.

In an Daily News interview with ATO pledge Bryan Meadows, the sophomore economics major said that 2010 was the first year his team had competed and won with an impressive time of 12.97 seconds.

The team was "naked," wearing only black boxer shorts adorned with cardboard signs that read "censored" across the front. Team members were (I-r): Bryan Meadows, Tyler Krempp, Will Stuller (Founders II, 2011), Morgan Stehr, and Blake Cook.

It seems that the only Homecoming loser for 2010 was our BSU football team who were pounded by Western Michigan, 45-16. That would spell the end for head coach Stan Parrish, who went a miserable 6-19 in three seasons, and was fired.

Parrish passed away on April 3, 2022 at the age of 75.



2009: Brother Griewank Was "The Last Comic Standing"

Thirteen years have passed since Brother Chad Griewank (Founders II, 2010) stood on the Pruis Hall stage in a lime green hoodie and delivered the winning performance at Ball State's first and only (?) "Last Comic Standing" competition. Since the event was never held again. Griewank claims he "should still be the reigning top comic at Ball State." David Letterman may have something to say about that.

From that claim, we do know that Griewank hasn't lost his bravado in the last 13 years. He attributes his ability to think well on his feet and his comfort on stage to his high school days. In his time on the debate team at Plymouth High School, the Pilgrims won the Indiana State Championship four consecutive years.

Griewank was also the state's runner up in the Indiana High School Forensics League "Duo Performance" his junior year. At BSU, he was involved in the ABSO improve group – joined later by Brother Zeyne Guzelderli (Beta Tau, 2013) in 2010.

Griewank is a little fuzzy on some of the "Last Comic Standing" details, but does remember that there were 10-12 competitors – each alloted 10 minutes – and he took the stage ninth.. He recalls that Greek organizations - including a large contingent from Alpha Chi Omega sorority - took up the most of the 700 seats. Playing to that audience, Griewank devoted most of his set to "people you see at parties." Skillfully giving an impression of each party-going type - the biggest laughs came from his impression of what he calls, "The Whooo Girl." It went something like this:

"And of course every group of girls at any party inevitably has 'The Whooo Girl' (mimics loud woohing of excitement) You know, the girl that is so hyped she's already on her second Smirnoff Ice? And ladies if you're not certain who "The Whooo Girl" is in your group, it's probably **you** . . . "

Griewank believes that his winning performance that night helped secure his nomination and eventual selection as Alpha Chi Omega's Lyreman – a very cherished honor.

While entertaining and making people laugh remains a passion of Griewank's, he now devotes most of his time to his career as Guest Services Manager for the Omni Severin Hotel in downtown Indianapolis. He plans to transfer to the Omni Hotel in Chicago by the end of 2022 to be with his boyfriend of one year, Brian – also a BSU alum (2013). In his limited free time, Griewank enjoys cooking and gardening.

The Love-Hate Relationship With Pruis Hall's Architect

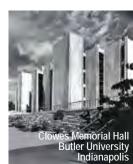
Noted Indianapolis architect, Evans Woollen (1927-2016) designed Ball State's University Hall with strong curves and angular walls to resemble a grand piano.

Completed in 1972, the 700-seat bowled auditorium is sheathed in beautiful Indiana limestone – a welcome respite from the massing of red brick structures on the BSU campus. It's interior was remodeled in 1995 and renamed for the President of Ball State from 1968-1978, John J. Pruis. Woollen designed the structure in the controversial Brutalist style, for which he is credited for introducing in the midwest.

Dubbed the dean of Indiana architects, Woollen studied under famed "Glass House" architect, Philip Johnson at Yale University. He established his own architecture firm in Indianapolis in 1955 that became known as Woollen, Molzan and Partners. Woollen designed some of the most visible, yet reviled buildings in Indianapolis (shown below). His spare, raw, unadorned take on Brutalism was too cold for many.













With more than 68 individual and corporate sponsors, the second annual Tau Classic was deemed a huge success raising \$7,550 for the Theta Alpha Scholar-

It was a beautiful day for golf in Fishers and very well attended from Brothers of

The winning team of Zac Adkins (Beta Eta, 1997), Dale Grow (Guest), Paul Blahunka (Pledge), and Paul Blahunka's father went an amazing 15 under with a

Plans are now in discussion to revive the Tau Classic after it was suspended due to Covid. Watch for an announcement soon.



2017: 50 Years of History Hits the Wrecking Ball

It's hard *not* to remember the names: Brayton/Clevenger, Knotts/Edwards, Mysch/Hurst, Woody/Shales and Shively. They were the names of the nine halls that comprised the huge LaFollette Complex dormitories that loomed over the north end of Ball State's campus.

How many of our Theta Alpha Brethern started their college years in one of these halls . . . I would venture a hundred or so.

Designed by Lafayette, Indiana's Walter Scholer & Associates (now Scholer Corp.) in 1965 and completed in 1967, LaFollette was built quickly to accommodate baby boomer enrollment. The 530,000 sq. ft. complex housed 1,900 students and for a brief period, was the largest collegiate dorm in the country.

Named for the Head of BSU's Social Science Department from 1921-1961, Robert R. LaFollette (1894-1967), the Complex was built at a cost of \$11M (a whopping \$99M in 2022 dollars).

The co-ed behemoth, consisting of four, eight-story L-shaped towers around the 10-story Shively Hall tower, had no central air conditioning (like most BSU dorms of the era) and it's small, cement block rooms became sweltering, claustrophobic sweat holes at the warmer beginning and end of school terms (even with the sliding glass windows open). The elevators, when they worked, were impossibly s-l-o-w. Visually impressive, in size only, the Complex respresented the very worst of 1960s architecture – sterile, cold, boring – and dare I say, cheap.

Deeming the cost for asbestos abatement and total rennovation as "staggering," the LaFollette Complex was slated for the wrecking ball starting in 2017, and finished in 2020. The total cost for the demolition: a *staggering* \$78 million!

Construction of replacement housing, designed to meet "the best practices in residence hall living," began in 2017. Originally part of the Johnson Complex, Schmidt/Wilson Hall was completely renovated in 2017, along with sister hall, Botsford/Swinford. Coed, with air conditioning and semi-private bathrooms, the Complex is now home to the Art, Theatre & Dance, and Design communities. In 2020, North Hall was completed to house the coed STEM community – featuring air conditioning, semi-private bathrooms, 3D printers, virtual reality headsets, and Glowforges. Northwest Hall, completed in 2021, is home to the Education and Music & Humanities communities. It's also coed and features air conditioning, semi-private bathrooms and fully-equipped kitchens and TV lounges on each floor.

Thanks for the memories, LaFollette! We won't miss you!











2016: Reading for Eaton



Part of the Delaware Community School Corp., Eaton Elementary in Eaton, IN serves 275 kids, K-5th grade. Above, Brothers First Gordon (Class, Year) and First Black (Class, Year) read to attentive first graders and later helped with coloring projects and other activities.

Eaton Elementary School.

Theta Alpha donated books to the kids for home reading and solicited donations to the Ball State and Muncie communities to continue the much-needed program.

2015: A Salute from Slovenia

On vacation in Slovenia, Brother Khalid Al-Rasheed (Beta Sigma, '12) remembered his Theta Alpha Brethern 4,700 miles away by unfurling the gold & azure to honor ATO. Cool move, Khalid!





January in Muncie is no picnic. And on January 31st with temperatures struggling to reach 20 degrees, the more adventurous BSU students braved the cold for charity in 2010's Annual Polar Bear Plunge. With 41 individual particpants, 71 Greek participants for the Polar Bear Relay and 200 onlookers shivering at LaFollette Field, \$8,000 was raised for the Special Olympics of Indiana. Alpha Tau Omega co-sponsored the event along with Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity and the Ball State University Police Department. We're thrilled to learn that everyone survived . . . but curiousity begs the question: why was the water *brown*? EWWWW!

2019: New Health Professions Building Opens

The seventh structuire on Ball State's campus to earn LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, the 165,000-square-foot Health Professions Building is home to Ball State's new College of Health.

The College offers degrees in Counseling Psychology; Social Psychology & Counseling; Social Work; Kinesiology; Nursing; Nutrition & Health Science; Speech Pathology & Audiology; Athletic Training, and Military Service (ROTC).

Eco-friendly features include green roofs, photovoltaic solar panels, an underground storm water retention system, low-flow water fixtures, energy-efficient LED lighting, a design that enhances daylight to reduce energy consumption, and geothermal heating and cooling.





1983: National Bestows Honor on Zmyslo

Recognized for his outstanding achievements in communications, Alan J. Zmyslo (Omicron, 1980) was selected as the national runner-up for the prestigious Harry L. Bird Public Relations Officer Award for the 1982-83 calendar year.

The award is named after Alpha Tau Omega's noted historian, author and founding editor of The Palm magazine.

Mystery Photo in Our 1986 Historical Archive

Likely marking VMI's original location in Lexington, Virginia, was this photo taken by a Brother during a

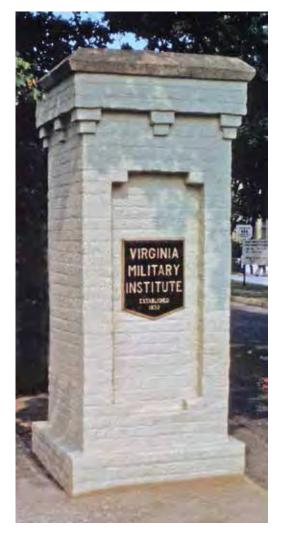
walkout? Road trip? Anybody know?

Brothers up on their ATO history will remember that the fraternity was founded at Virginia Military Institute on September 11, 1865 - 26 years after VMI's own founding, November 11, 1839.

Founders Otis Allan Glazebrook, Erskine Mayo Ross, and Alfred Marshall hoped Christian brotherly love would help facilitate reconciliation between the North and South in the aftermath of the divisive Civil War.

VMI is no longer associated with the fraternity. In 1885, the VMI Board of Visitors ruled that cadets could no longer join fraternities based on the belief that allegiance to a fraternal group "undermined the cohesiveness of and loyalty to the Corps of Cadets.'

In June 1864, Union General David Hunter ordered the school burned and Cadets were forced to relocate to nearby Richmond. VMI reopened in 1865 in its current Lexington, Va. location.



1989: A Peck for POTUS

Unable to contain himself, Steve Schrader (Chi, 1983) kisses a cardboard likeness of our 41st President.

We're been told he stopped short of slipping Bush the tongue.

We were unable to identify just where this was shot, but a likely guess was in a retail store in the village ... perhaps a card shop?

George Herbert Walker Bush (R-TX), promised a "kinder and gentler nation" in his 1988 campaign. But by 1992, rising crime, recession, dismay with his universally-ridiculed Vice President, Dan Quayle (R-IN), and his reneg on a promise not to raise taxes, all doomed his re-election bid in 1992 – losing big to the then-relativelyunknown Governor of Arkansas, Democrat Bill Clinton (370-168 electoral votes), who carried 32 states.

Sunbathing 1983 Style Tim Ringlespaugh (Sigma, 1981) with Jennifer Beam at the Philips Quarry. The old gravel mining site is now a scuba diving



WHEN: SATURDAY, JULY 16, 11:00 - ?

WHERE: IRVING'S WATERBOWL

COOKOUT, SWIMMING, VOLLEYBALL

SOFTBALL, REFRESHMENTS . . .

SATURDAY NIGHT 9:00 PARTY LOCATION T. B. A.

SUNDAY 12:00 - 3:00

CHAPTER RETREAT - KITSELMAN CENTER

Taking a break from the dance floor at Muncie's Roberts Hotel Ballroom



After getting their groove on, these six Brothers pose for the camera while cooling off with an adult beverage at 1981's ATO Pledge Dance.

By the looks of their shirts, it seems that after busting a few moves, their Arrid Extra Dry may have failed them.

Front row (I-r): Al Zmyslo (Omicron, 1980), and Allen Myers (Pi, 1981). Back row (I-r): Paul Dunsford (Upsilon, 1982), Doug Gehrke (Rho, 1981), Tim Ringlespaugh (Epsilon, 1981), and Dan Ervin (Tau, 1982).

The event was held at downtown Muncie's historic Roberts Hotel Ballroom. Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982, the 8-story hotel has suffered a schizophrenic history: closed in 1972; reopened in 1976; closed in 1984; renovated as a Radisson in 1987; sold in 2000; closed in 2003; purchased in 2004 to be converted into luxury apartments, but went bankrupt and shuttered; then sold again in a 2010 courtordered auction. It has since been saved from the wrecking ball and renovated into 83 apartments as The Lofts at Roberts.

Summer break fun in the sun: 1983 style

the summer of 1983, Theta Alpha Taus planned this bash to escape Indiana's notorious humidity. What better place to cool off than Irving's Water Bowl, north of Muncie.

The Binder recap noted that the day was spent engaging in swimming, volleyball, softball, football, and socializing - with plenty of food and drinks. The weekend ended abruptly, and Brothers returned home for the rest of the summer but with them the memories of a tremendous weekend and the promise of an exciting year.

Seeking to keep the party going in The park, opened in '57, was saved from the wrecking ball in 2014, when the 170-acre site was auctioned off in parcels. The 21-acre Water Bowl was sold to the highest bidder for \$500k and remains open to this day for land-locked Muncians to enjoy a day "at the beach."





Benny Pimping Pi Pledges

Oh, those naughty Pi pledges!

The swaggering seven decided to use the statue of Beneficence as a backdrop for this shot. Innocent, right? NOT!

Upon further review, we learn that this photo was hardly spontaneous. Not only was "Benny" sporting ATO letters, but someone had the balls to place headphones (?) on Benny's wings and stick a stogie in Benny's mouth!

Probably shot on a late night in the winter of 1979 to avoid a run in with campus cops, the pledges are (I-r): Todd Klotz, Tim Wheeler, Rob Simmons, Brian Beaver, Steve Gray, Todd Stallings, and Tom Maddux. With one exception, the Pi pledges were all initiated in 1980.



1974: Mad for Plaid

Steve, what did you say

to prompt this move?

In what has to be the most hideous decade in global fashion – the 1970s fostered trends that hopefully will never be visited again. Hip-hugging bellbottom slacks, leisure suits, ascot ties, jumpsuits, wide lapels, even-wider shirt collars, still-wider neckties, polyester everything, ridiculous plarform shoes and PLAID were all regretful crimes of fashion that many of us committed. Here, a prime visual of the era: Steve Stamper (Founders 1, 1973), and Gary Zuzolo (Founders 1, 1973) both succumbed to the plague of plaid. Gawd, what were we all thinking?





of the best ambassadors for the fraternity we could possibly ask for. Thank you ladies, for all your help and dedication. We owe ALL of our little sisters through the years a debt of gratitude! Front row (I-r): Tanner Michael, Linda Fox, Charlotte Payne, Laura Hopping. Second row (I-r): Tammy Milliner, Patti Oden, Glenda Jones, Diane Frey, Shari Funkhouser, Tyani Compton. Third row (I-r): Karen Lough, Cindy Schroeder, Mary Ann Sutton, Susie Kenley, Diane Pauley, Stef Lee. Fourth row (I-r): Sue Rehlander, Karen Zilli, Kathy Hardey, Laurie Pink-

man, Kelly Boyles, Linda Harig, Paula Eisele, Alice Mathena. Back row (I-r): Debbie Silvers, Cathy Bonner, Emma Dodds, Carol Schoelkopf, Diana Turner, Valerie Fulton, Linda Zollar, Julie George.

Underappreciated and underutilized at times, our classy little sisters were some

BSU 1979: A Much-Needed Major Upgrade

The embarrassing blast from the past. BSU's College of Business once existed in a gawd-awful, converted row of three old Naval Reserve quonset huts on the corner of Neely and McKinley.

The Whitinger Business Building opened in 1979 (renovated in 2004). Named after Ralph J. Whitinger, philanthropist & founder of the Ball State Foundation, the building houses the Miller College of Business.

The MCOB offers more than a dozen undergraduate majors and several graduate degrees including BSU's highly ranked entrepreneurship program.



House Party Circa 1976: The Prime Window Seat Spot

If only the window seat at 200 North McKinley could talk – imagine the range of stories it could tell! Before it was mercifully retired, the padded/upholstered seat cover absorbed enough beer to fill a keg – and who knows what was stored below, under those hinged seats!

Here, bros and little sisses revel in their prime window seat spot (I-r): Ronny Collier (Eta, 1975), Morey Cohen (Alpha, 1973), Glenda Jones, Bruce Metsker (Theta, 1976) and Becky Stewart.

Remembering Bruce

Close friends knew Bruce as "Betty." According to Mark Wilson (Zeta, 1975), the story goes that when Bruce's mom, Betty won their pledge class fundraising raffle a pledge yelled out, "Hello Betty!," a popular line from a 70's TV spot for Dentyne. The moniker stuck forever.

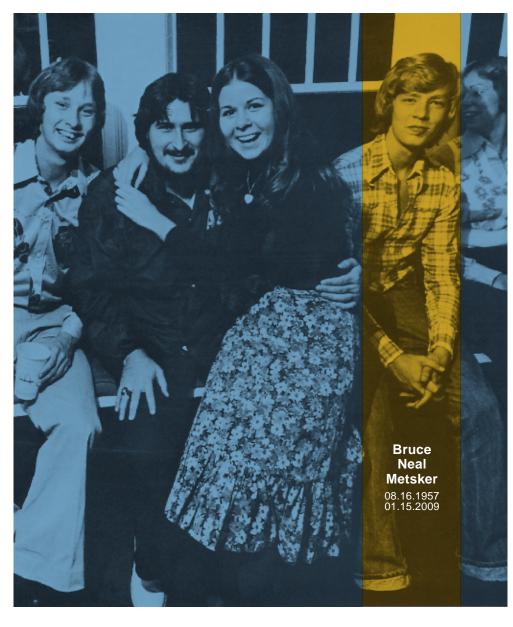
Whatever you called him, Bruce was hard not to like. He was the ultimate free spirit, but was also a very private person. Wryly funny, he was dedicated to ATO, *loved* to party and it seemed like I hardly ever saw him without a McD's Coke in one hand and a Winston in the other. Bruce was constantly teased – from his Noblesville ("Nobletucky") upbringing to his stereotypical persona. He took it all in stride with a grin.

Many lost track of Bruce after BSU when he left in 1979 and moved to Houston. He eventually earned a B.S. in Marketing from the University of Houston, and spent most of his career in the litigation support industry.

Sadly, Bruce passed away in 2009 in Houston at the young age of 51. Always the Noblesville kid, he is interred In Noblesville's Crownland Cemetary.

Somehow, I now envision that Bruce has a window seat to that big party in the sky.

We miss you, Betty. Rest in peace.



1993's Monster Mash Bash Was a Howling Success



Chuck Bricker (Alpha Phi, 1992) made the best Dracula ever – the jet black hair, Lee Press-On Nails and really hairy arms did it for us. Above right (I-r), having a great time: Jill Gretencord, Laurie Nuptial, Rochelle Foss, Chuck Bricker's wife-to-be, LeeAnn Stacy, and Amy Kalhust. Right, John "Doc" Potts (Indiana ATO, 1974) fooled absolutely no one in his 1960's preppie costume.

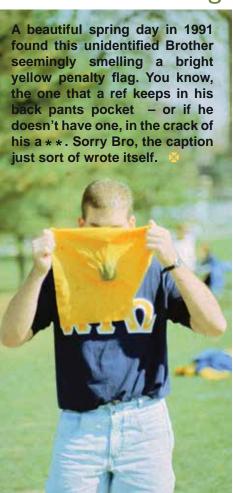


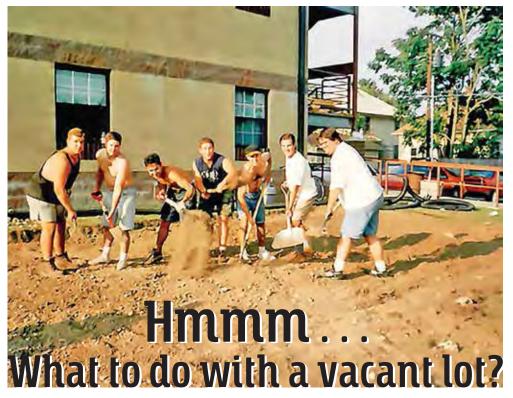


1992: Packed Worthen Arena Dedication Game

On January 15, 1992 Ball State defeated the Miami of Ohio Redskins (renamed to RedHawks in 1997), 70-64, in front of a rockin' sell-out crowd of 11,500 fans. That year, despite beating rival Miami of Ohio twice during the regular season, the Cards lost a heartbreaker to the Redskins, 58-57 in the MAC Conference Championship game, finishing 24-9. Snubbed by the NCAA and relegated to the NIT, the Cards lost to formercoach Rick Majerus' Utes in Salt Lake City, 72-57. Twenty-five years later in 2018, the octagonally-shaped Worthen Arena received a \$29.4M upgrade - including a new floor, scoreboards, sound system, and video boards - enhancements that arguably make Worthen the best venue in the MAC.







During the summer of 1993, these seven industrious brothers and others took the initiative to build a regulation sand volleyball court on the vacant lot adjacent to the new ATO house. I'm told, this wasn't some cheesy, amateur build. The lot was perfectly graded and leveled to regulation size, with appropriate drainage apparatus, and then filled with several tons of beach sand and official-size net supports constructed. It must have made for some great competitive fun in the sun for volleyballing Brothers and friends. Posing for the "groundbreaking" are (I-r): Phil Rogers (Alpha Phi, '92), Mike Cox (Alpha Chi, '93), Farzad "Farzo" Mirzaei (Alpha Tau, '91), Brian Hollowman (Alpha Phi, '92), Claud Morrow (Alpha Chi, 93), Daco Ackomovic (Alpha Tău, '91), and Tim Tidwell (guest). 💆

Was it Alpha Tau Omega Sweatshirt Night?

No, it's the Alpha Psi Pledge Class Ten, Circa 1993



This pledge class had style and dedication. Posing after a philanthropy project at a local nursing home, these service-minded Alpha Psis are all smiles during "Help Week." The group will be celebrating their thirtieth anniversary next year! Can you believe it's been 30 years, guys?! They are from I-r, front: Scott Logue. Middle: Mark Thielen, Benjamin Miller, Mathew Cox, (unknown/depledged). Back: John Grizinger, Kevin Singh, Chris Simon, Lonny Hatland, Scott Smith.

1990: Construction on Worthen Arena Begins

Named after BSU's president from 1984-2000, the John E. Worthen Arena was built at a cost of \$8M (\$64M in 2021 dollars) and seats 11,500 fans - the second largest arena in the Mid-American conference (Ohio University's Convocation Center, built in 1968, seats 13,000). Worthen Arena placed the 6,600 seat Men's Gym, renamed University Gym, then renamed again as Irving Gym. Historically, the biggest game ever in Men's Gym was on Dec. 10, 1988 when a raucous, SRO crowd of 7,000 saw the Rick Majerus-led Cardinals upset the Purdue Boilermakers, 70-56, finishing the season a recordbest, 29-3. Irving Gym was demolished in 2009 to make way for the Jo Ann Gora Student Recreation & Wellness Center.



1991: Powder Huffing?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Fort Glazebrook & Fut Bay

Time on South Bass Island makes the emotional ferry ride back to the mainland seem far longer than the ferry ride from the mainland

Andrew Will (Beta Psi,2015) graduated from Ball State in 2017 with a degree in sociology. Since graduation, he has worked at several non-profit organizations. He is currently single and lives in Carmel. Indiana.



by Andrew Will

A campsite is just another campsite almost anywhere you set up your tent. But as soon as you run the azure and gold of ATO up the flagpole, for a few adventurous brothers of Theta Alpha, the campsite becomes "Fort Glazebrook."

What started out as a weekend getaway for a couple of brothers in the fall of 2017 has grown into an annual event. With the exception of the Covid-ravaged summer of 2020, a group of brothers have descended on Lake Erie's beautiful South Bass Island, or Put-in-Bay, for five years now. It's usually a rather diverse group of ATOs – from 1972 Founders to recent graduates.

Thankfully, there's always of few of us that grew up camping and know the drill. JT Matteucci (Gamma Delta, 2016) had never camped before. Jack Alysworth (Founders 1, 1972) brought a shirt that had been embroidered with the inscription, "Frat Boyz Fishing 2021: What Could Possibly Go Wrong?" Well . . .

In joining our beloved chapter, we are asked to engage in the ties of brotherhood whether we meet in the sunshine of prosperity, or in the shadows of adversity. But let me be clear, there's no shortage of either when overlooking the Bass Islands of Lake Erie. What I can tell you is adversity looks an awful lot like Jeff Dewitt and I – separated by some forty years or so, using *all* our body weight to keep an awning from flying away when our cliffside campsite got ravaged by one of Lake Erie's infamous storms – aptly referred to as "end-of-the-world lightning" by Greg Clark (Founders 1, 1972)!



Where else but Ft. Glazebrook could we have learned that Brother Jeff DeWitt's tent is named "Big Agnes?!"

And the prosperity? That's watching a South Bass Island State Park sunset with a cigar. Or testing your spinning reel's drag on those smallmouth bass with a night crawler below a slip bobber.

There's plenty of time to relax and talk. From fishing on the pier, to the 1.25 mile walk to town, or just settling into a chair with a good cigar on the porch. Generational stories of our college years in ATO and life experiences were shared. We hear about the careers, the good health and the bad health, our significant others, the kids, and the grandkids. There's no shortage of wisdom – the younger brothers listening intently to our life lessons – what we should have done, what we could have done, and what we have left to do . . . hopefully.

And oh, how the stories flowed. JT Matteucci's great adventure one night letting a mechanical bull get the best of him. Or Ned Green (Rho, 1981) – in his orange tent that is roughly the same age as Betty White – setting up a trap to try and catch a raccoon barehanded to keep it from picking through our food again. Gary Zuzolo (Founders 1, 1972) breaking not one, but *two* fishing poles. Steve Nall (Theta, 1976) sleeping through *any* storm. And Jeff De Witt (Founders 1, 1972) naming his tent, the "Big Agnes."

For the tourist, Put-in-Bay has many options: Perry's International Peace Monument, historic lighthouses, Massie Cliffside Preserve, Lake Erie Fish Hatchery, Perry's Cave, Butterfly House, the Benson Ford Shiphouse, Saunders Golf Course, Boardwalk, Heiniman Winery, and others. There's also plenty of shopping, restaurants and bars – including the World's Longest Bar. Frosty's Pizza is actually owned by an ATO from Hillsdale College!





Before we depart each time, we conclude with the traditional "Good Of The Order," and 2021's version around a campfire was exceptional. Hearing Jack Aylsworth describe his life through the years – taking him from being known as "Crazy Jack," to a Brother who had grown to appreciate and apply those lessons we learned in ATO – resonated deeply with many of us. And note to self: in every "Good Of The Order" from here on out, I am *not* going after Jack!

Warm thoughts around a warm Fort Glazebrook campfire. From I-r: Steve Nall (Theta, '76), Andrew Will ((Beta Psi, '14), Dave Sprunger (Alpha, '73), Jack Aylsworth (Founders 1, '72), Tony Sandlaben (Beta Phi, '13), Jeff DeWitt (Founders 1, '72), Gary Zuzolo (Founders 1, '72).







Ft. Glazebrook helped bond several generations – though decades apart

And as the days go by on the island, memories old and new blur together to become one shared experience – the bond sought by the words in the Creed of Alpha Tau Omega.

Some might feel that the different generations of ATOs have little to learn from each other – that bonding might be hard to achieve. Put-In-Bay is a testament to the opposite of that sentiment. I am proud and humbled to have had the opportunity to share the island off the coast of Ohio with my brothers.

As time on the island came to a end, we yearned to have just one more night, to enjoy just one more beer, to make just a few more casts. And hoped for something we all wish we had more of . . . time.

Steve Nall once said, "The ferry ride back to the mainland is much longer than the ferry ride from the mainland." However you never truly know how it will affect you until you have left for the first time.

There were nine Brothers at the last summer's event and we hope to grow that number every year. If you like to camp, drop me a line at andrew89will@aim.com. I'll forward details of our next trip coming up on the week of August 14.

I hope you'll plan on joining us at Fort Glazebrook!

In the Know







PHI-TAU DYF SPRING 2022

With Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Brothers made tie-dye T-shirts to give to charity. (front, I-r): Ben Dias, Jaylan Gordon-White, Elliot Street, Corey Wells, Clayton Spurlock, Chiara Biddle (former chapter sweetheart), Nathan Logue, Sam Merit, Jack Cullinan, Ethan Aryes, Brian Harding, Brady Hissong, Jack Pedersen, Ross England, Sachin Yadav, Joe Mitchell, and Scott Collins.

Getting Back on Track After Covid's Lockdown

Imagine the challenge of keeping an fraternity chapter active when there is no rush, no university events, no greek events, no meetings, no parties, no sports, no philanthropics – no socialization of any kind. No easy task. Yet through it all, we not only persevered, I think our bond of brotherhood became stronger.

One night during lockdown, the entire chapter hung out at the house for the night. We allowed brothers to express or say anything that was on their mind. What we learned about each other was invaluable – how Brothers were doing personally, how they felt about the fraternity, and their life stories. It was a shared experience none of us will soon forget.

I would like to thank each and every Brother for their honesty, their willingness to share, and their countless acts of brotherhood during this difficult period. Special thanks to our most recent graduating class of 2022: Brothers Jordan Bueno, Nicholas Roche, Ian Smith, Todd Sams, Chandler Sturgis, James Schwer, and Scott Speiser. On behalf of Theta Alpha, we owe each of you a debt of gratitude for your time, effort, hard work, dedication and countless acts of brotherhood. Best of luck to you and please stay in touch – we would love to hear how you're doing.

This year we finally got to experience what a *regular* school year looked like. Our philanthropics, campus events, social activities, and everyday operations were all back on track for the first time since 2019. Watermelon Bust, Taus-Get-Yolked, Air Jam, and OnlyCans were just a few of the events held for the first time in two years. We introduced new events: Alpha Dogs and Phi-Tau Dye – and were thrilled to finally get rush week activities back. We also enjoyed get-togethers including a Pacers game, Super Bowl, March Madness, and a World Series event. The chapter also loved getting back to the small things we enjoy – weekly baseball, basketball, Movie Mondays, and several trips to local golf courses.

We were please to hold regular initiations – honoring 16 Brothers in the fall and nine in the spring. Upholding tradition, we were able to enjoy one of our favorite events, the post-initiation lunch at Puerto Vallarta restaurant – including all current Brothers, some alumni, as well as the new initiates.

Dad's Day in the fall, and Mom's Day in the spring were welcome events for all Brothers, especially older members who got to experience them for the first time.

Collectively, the 2021-22 school term was a welcome time to get things back on track for the chapter and represented an amazing experience for us all.

On a Sunny Day in Muncie, Brothers Suit Up with New Initiates (Gamma Omicron) to Strike a Pose at 1100 West Riverside Boulevard

We are humbled to have such an outstanding group of new men join and learn what it means to be a member of Alpha Tau Omega (front I-r., new initiates in red): Scott Collins, Liam Cunnington, Jack Pedersen, Matt Wasso, Reece Guderian, Sachin Yadav, Brad Spurlock (Vice Presi-

dent), Danny Curran (President), Peter Sherfey, Ethan Aguilar, Gavin Ward, Ross England, Lucas Limpin, Nick Roche, Randy Holt (alumnus), Doc Potts (Indiana, 1974) Andrew Will (alumnus), Evan Voigt, AJ Getz, Noah Lawson, Jaylan Gordon-White, Gavin Ward, Ben Dias, Elijah Sutton, Blake Moulton, Charlie Dice, Max Garro, Ben Parmely, Brian Rosales, Lucas Liapes, Hayden Dusham, Ethan Aryes, Alan Cohen, Sam Merrit, Cameron Diekhoff, Brice Diekhoff, Austin Bohman, Brian Harding, Scott Speiser, Ian Smith, Will Gatte, Cameron Joray, Tom Perkins (alumnus), Conner Prince, Elliott Street, Corey Wells, Nathan Logue, Terrence Young, Joe Surrat, Isiah Oakley, Daniel Richey, Jake Mullen.





2021's Air Jam Dance Champions!

In contrasting black and red, Alpha Tau Omega took to the Emens Auditorium stage with Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority and danced their way to 2021's Air Jam Dance Competition Championship – Greek Division!

Going strong since 1987, Air Jam has become BSU's most popular Homecoming event. ATO-AOPi brought home the trophy beating out Alpha Phi & Sigma Phi Epsilon with Alpha Chi Omega & Sigma Chi coming in third.

(Brothers, I-r): Nathan Koon, Colt Munsey, Jack Musial, Ben Dias, Conner Prince, Jaylan Gordon-White, Liam Cunnington, Peter Sherfey, Colin Goffinet, and Jacob Bartolatta.

Way to go, Brothers!

2019: Taus Get Yolked!



A Team Effort: Helping Kids in Need

Paired with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Theta Alpha ATOs were able to help the kids at the Boys & Girls Club of Muncie enjoy more activities including outdoor sports and other recreational activities during 2020's philanthropic project.

Brothers also helped with facility cleaning and planting trees. The girls in the picture, employee volunteers at the Club, were thrilled to have us there and so appreciated our efforts.

Appreciating the opportunity to give back, pictured (back row): Peter Plaskow, Zach Fultz, Jack Cullinan, Parker McClintic, Liam Cunnington, Danny Curran, and Cam Joray.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Muncie serves some 600 youth – providing a safe, structured and positive environment after school, during holidays and summer vacation since 1933.

Encouraging regular attendance, academic success, and healthy lifestyles through high-yield activities and targeted programs, the Club inspires and enables kids to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens.



Now *this* is dedicated philanthropy – Brothers volunteering to be sacrificial lambs for anyone who thinks frat boys are too cool for school! It will cost them, though: \$1 for 1 egg, \$2 for 3 eggs. Guys, with inflation you may have to raise the price on those hen fruits! ATO donates all proceeds to the FealGood Foundation, a non-profit organization that raises money to support injured first responders. Brothers, I notice that you're very conscientious about girding your loins, but did you ever think about wearing goggles? Bracing for another shelling are (I-r): James Schwer, Landon Swogger, Danny Curran, and Ceven Webb (Ceven, bonus points for the chicken costume!).



keports

Health & Safety

Alumni Assoc.

Representative

Advisor

Historian

LEADERSHIP



The BOT is composed of Brothers from multiple decades of Theta Alpha's history with backgrounds serving in various roles in the Chapter, National, or IFC.

one of the current members of the BOT has served as an officer while an undergraduate, and more than one had some level of experience at the ATO National Office.

Each year the BOT has planning sessions with Chapter officers in the fall and spring - with other meetings as needed during the year. Most BOT members also meet one-on-one with their undergraduate counterpart on a regular basis - over the phone, Zoom, or other method.

Listed below are the current members of Theta Alpha's Board of Trustees.

Love and respect, Todd Stallings Board of Trustees Chairman



Bill Evans (Alpha Phi, '92)

Tom Perkins (Founder, '73)

PAST SERVICE Worthy Chaplain, Membership Recruitment, Graduate Advisor (Duke University) Member Education Chair, HQ Leadership Consultant, Assoc. Dir., Spiritual Programs Worthy Master, Treasurer, Historian David Apple (Gamma Eta, '18) Worthy Master, IFC President, HQ Intern

> Worthy Master, Worthy Chaplain, Member Education Chair, IFC Rep, HQ Leadership Consultant, HQ Director of Expansion

ATO Colony Pledge Trainer

Nick Carter Worthy Master (Gamma Gamma, '16)



Bill Evans will represent Theta Alpha's Board of Trustees at the ATO National Fraternity Congress to be held July 28-31, at the Ritz-Carlton Grande Lakes in Orlando, Florida.

Bill will report on his experience at 2022's Congress in a story for the August issue of The Binder.



Capital Campaign Feasibility Study Now in Progress The Board of Directors of the Housing Corporation was reconstituted in February and immediately started to lay the groundwork to raise funds to purchase or build a new Chapter House. The Chapter is currently leasing the Theta Chi House at 1100 W. Riverside Avenue through the 2023-24 academic year. The Board set a prelimi-

nary goal of raising \$1.5 million for a new house.

Since the Housing Corporation had minimal funds on hand, additional funds were raised through generous contributions from a few alumni with the goal of funding a Capital Campaign Feasibility Study. The purpose of the Study is to determine whether there is sufficient alumni financial support for a new Chapter House and to determine a realistic dollar goal for the Capital Campaign.

The Board interviewed four fundraising firms during the month. The Study will take approximately five months to complete with of May and selected Pennington and Company to conduct the Feasibility Study. Pennington, a recognized leader in fraternity and sorority fundraising, has raised more than \$950M during its 29 years of serving the Greek community.

Corporation

Report

Pennington's leadership team includes Patrick Alderdice, CEO (Ball State, Delta Chi '92) who currently serves on the BSU Foundation Board; Bob McKenney, President (Kansas, ATO '02) who currently serves on the ATO National Board of Directors; and Nick Lemay, Lead Consultant, a Kent State ATO who recently worked for ATO National before joining Pennington. Lemay will be leading the Feasibility Study effort. the goal of reporting the results at the Housing Corporation's annual meeting during the Chapter's 50th Anniversary Celebration, October 28-29th in Muncie.

The Board is excited to be moving forward on efforts to obtain a new Chapter House.

With your support, we are confident the Capital Campaign will be a great success – providing the path to secure a new house for all Theta Alpha active members and alumni to enjoy for many years to come.

Love and respect, Randy Holt, Housing Corporation President.



Your Participation is Welcome - and Needed

2022 Theta Alpha Alumni **Association Board of Directors**

> Steve Nall (Theta, 1976) President

Al Zmyslo (Omicron, 1980) Vice President

John Shuster (Founders II) Secretary

David McConaha (Beta Gamma, 1995) Communications Director

Tyler Severson (Founders II, 2011) Alumni Communications Director



IMPORTANT NOTICES:

Please submit your Alumni Association Board of Director nominations to: stnall@yahoo.com

Please stay in touch: confirm your contact information at www.atobsu.org

CLICK HERE to register for Theta Alpha's 50th Anniversary Celebration

WE NEED YOUR PICTURES!

Please submit photos identifying the event, year, people and description/ caption (if possible) to: rusty.bruce59@gmail.com

Dear Brothers:

If you visit www.atobsu.org, you'll find an Alumni section with a listing of all the volunteers that are serving in positions on the Board of Trustees, The Housing Corporation, and the Alumni Association. Seventeen Brothers in total - and many more behind the scenes - are working to ensure the ongoing success of Theta Alpha.

My heartfelt thanks goes out to all that have accepted leadership roles.

Our current officers were appointed through a consent resolution by the remaining Board member, and then voted into their respective positions. We serve until the next annual meeting of the Association on our 50th Anniversary weekend, Saturday, October 29 at 8:30 a.m. in the chapter house basement.

Elections to the Alumni Association Board will be held during this meeting, as well a vote on an updated version of our by-laws, by those initiated Brothers in attendance.

Nominations for the Board will be accepted up to 30 days before the annual meeting and should be sent to: stnall@yahoo.com.

Since March, the Board has met on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m. EST via Zoom. All alumni are welcome to participate. This schedule will continue until October's annual meeting. If you would like to participate in the Zoom meetings, please contact me at the email address above.

Our website states: "The Alumni Association exists to promote the brotherhood of ATO by providing an outlet for casual alumni interaction. Alumni associations allow the opportunity for ATOs to continue to benefit from their membership through fellowship, networking, social engagements, and a variety of other potential interactions."

Historically, we have provided alumni interaction opportunities via events like Homecoming, Founder's Day, Chapter Initiations, Summer Bash, Taint Day, and The Tau Classic. We are open to consider other possibilities.

Let's re-energize our brotherhood and strengthen our bond to promote Theta Alpha!

We value your opinion and welcome your participation.

Love and respect.

Steve Nall

President, Theta Alpha Alumni Association

Cultivating Camaraderie:

Time Well Spent at the ATO Farm Affirms That True Friendships Are Never Lost

Celebrated American novelist and environmental activist Wendell Berry once said that soil is the great connector of lives. It's also the great reconnector of friendships.

If you're around my age, you've no doubt experienced the same emotion. Forty hectic vears of family responsibilities, careers, community involvement, health scares, and helping others have flown by – and along the way, you realize how you've lost touch with those you once deemed good friends. It's sadness with perhaps, a touch of guilt.

But in October of 2012, I was blessed with the rare opportunity to remedy that situation – at least with my formative ATO Brethren. Greg Clark (Founders I, 1972), Gary Zuzolo (Founders I, 1972), and Charley Willis (Delta, 1974) planned a reunion for alumni brothers who had joined the chapter during its first six years (1971-1977).

So, on the rich farm soil of Hancock Ctv., IN, arrangements were made to use two modern farmhouses a few miles east of Greenfield. Tyner Pond Farm is a working organic farm with a large cattle herd, and a house designed specifically for retreats and reunions. The other farmhouse belongs to the Willis family. Most activities took place at Tyner Pond; but the two houses - about a mile apart provided ample sleeping space.

Despite a woefully out-of-date address list. 21 alumni attended – including 12 of the chapter's 38 charter members initiated October 28, 1972. Some had not been to an ATO gathering for more than two decades - initiating some anxiety about how they might be received given their change in appearance. I worried if I would be able to put names with faces I hadn't seen in twenty-plus years.

But the initial anxiety gave way to warm smiles, handshakes and generous hugs. Cold beer and a cookout prompted a more relaxed environement to catch up.

That night, we browsed a chapter scrapbook and other memorabilia while hundreds of photos flashed on a big screen TV. Treasured memories of old times together surfaced, and through the weekend they became a flood of emotions.

The bonds of old friendships some feared were lost, quickly rekindled that first night. Together again, they proved true friendships might be neglected - interrupted by other priorities in life - but never really lost. They just wait to be cultivated again – when the time is right.

Josh Shuster (Founders II, 2011) admirably answered a number of questions about our current chapter status. I wondered what he must have been thinking as he headed back to campus the next morning – after getting an earful of "old alumni stories."

Saturday morning the smell of fresh donuts and coffee jump-started a sunny autumn day. After a hearty lunch, brothers spent the afternoon skeet shooting, sitting around the Willis bonfire, and some piled into Jim Mahoney's (Founders I, 1972) SUV to visit Mike Wilson (Founders I, 1972), who was physically unable to join the reunion.

Back at Tyner for dinner, Brother Zuzolo prepared spaghetti and meatballs - a replay of the memorable 1972 "Godfather" dinner party at the Muncie FOP.

Sunday, Brothers gathered in the great room for a traditional Good of the Order by Jeff DeWitt



- where everyone agreed that the event should be repeated. Seven years later, "ATO Farm II" was extended to include brothers in the chapter between 1971-1979. Twenty-four alumni participated that weekend.

The group road-tripped to Muncie to visit the ATO chapter house - meeting several of their undergraduate brothers. Sunday morning's Good of the Order was another emotion-filled farewell.

Time has a wonderful way of showing us what really matters. As students, we can't fully appreciate the phrase, "ATO for Life" - until years later, on a weekend at an Indiana farm - whose soil became the great connector of lives - and lasting friendships.

ATO for life, indeed.







True friendships might be neglected interrupted by other priorities in life - but never really lost. They just wait to be cultivated again, when the time is right.

(Front left): Ned Green; Unknown; Wes Olds; Greg Clark; Charley Willis. (Front right): Morey Cohen; Jeff Laslie; Bill Patterson; Greg Winans; Tom Perkins. (Middle 1st row): Steve Todd; Jerry Wilson; Mike McElhiney; Gary Zuzolo; Jeff DeWitt; Steve Clark. (Middle 2nd row): Steve Kirschner; Al Smith; Dave Sprunger; Rusty Bruce. (Middle 3rd row): Steve Nall. Dan Coleman. Curt Watson, Brent Carter.

About Jeff DeWitt

Invited to join the Spartan Social Club in 1971. Jeff then became a charter initiate of ATO's Theta Alpha chapter. Jeff was the founding editor of The Binder and served as chapter advisor.

Jeff devoted his career to worthy nonprofit causes. He worked four years as a probation officer in Jay and Wayne counties. He was Dir. of Alumni and Volunteer Svcs. at ATO headquarters for six years. For 12 years Jeff headed the Americas field staff for Kiwanis Intl. He wrapped up his career with 18 years as marketing director for an Indiana Univ. research center, retiring in 2017. Jeff lives in Ellettsville, IN, near Bloomington.

