



# EPSILON OMICRON NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF ALPHA TAU OMEGA FRATERNITY

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY ▲ SPRING 2017

## Epsilon Omicron Chapter Maintains Excellence

*Task Force Created to Ensure Bright Future at OSU*

The state of the Chapter continues to be great. On January 22, we initiated 26 new members. To help celebrate, we had a parent's lunch, which was well attended. More than 25 alumni joined the festivities, which included an alumni meeting in the afternoon. The Chapter has made great strides over the last several years, garnering National Chapter of the Year honors, maintaining a Chapter GPA in the top five fraternities on campus, and keeping the house at capacity as a result of successful summer recruitment. All of this has been accomplished in spite of residing in a facility that is the oldest on campus and is showing its age.

To ensure the continued advancement of our mission and the continued presence of Epsilon Omicron as a leader in the Greek community, it has become clear that action must be taken to improve the living and learning environment we offer our undergraduate brothers. The Epsilon Omicron Housing Corporation determined that a strategic plan was needed to provide the Chapter, alumni, and parents the focus and direction to accomplish our mission, so the Task Force on Strategic Planning was formed, with myself, **Scott Gilpin '79**, heading up the efforts.

### TASK FORCE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING

The charge of the Task Force is to identify and prioritize potential strategic goals for Epsilon Omicron, which will provide our Chapter with the focus and direction needed to fulfill its mission as a brotherhood of principled leaders capable of changing lives and building families, communities, countries, and a better world.

It's hard to accomplish anything without a plan. All of us who are a part of the immediate and extended ATΩ family at OSU have been blessed to be part of an uncommon and wonderfully successful organization dedicated to creating principled leaders. Because of your Chapter's many achievements, we have an excellent opportunity to ensure it has an even more vital future. Any endeavor worth doing deserves a strategic plan, especially one where lives are changed and, in turn, our families and communities are impacted. We live in a rapidly changing world



*Brothers in front of ATΩ's Homecoming decorations. We were so proud of our decoration after months of hard work and design.*

where the shelf life of our solutions gets shorter year by year.

I'm excited to be selected to guide our Chapter family through our strategic planning process. Keenly aware of my shortcomings, I wanted to convene a team of truly talented undergraduates, alumni, parents, and university representatives. This step has been accomplished. The focus areas and team chairmen are as follows:

Undergraduate Experience—**David Ratcliff '83**

(david@ivyratcliffchasteen.com)

Alumni Experience—**Brad Duvall '06** (bradpd86@gmail.com)

Parent Experience—**Shelby Cypret** (shelby.clanahan@okstate.edu)

Governance (Board of Trustees/Housing Corp.)—**Matt Tilly '02** (matt.tilly@dvu.com)

Finance—**John Meinders '83** (jhmeinders@cox.net)

Physical Plant (Chapter House)—**Todd Herndon '80**

(todd.hk3@cox.net)

Public Relations—**Dan Vice '87** (dan@vices.us)

The team chairmen have recruited members to their teams and have begun to gather information through interviews, group discussions, surveys, and data from undergraduate members, alumni, parents, the university, and others. Teams are meeting via conference calls, and they will soon analyze the results of their fact-finding and identify and prioritize strategic goals that can help focus the energy, resources, and time of everyone in the same direction. Upon completion, the teams will submit recommendations for a strategic plan to the Housing Corporation.

The end result is only the beginning. The vision and plan for your Chapter's future will take us to places we never thought possible. Let's work together to create a more vital future.

**To find out more about the Task Force, the focus area teams, or to volunteer to help us fulfill our mission, please contact me or any of the team chairmen.**

Fraternally,

**Scott Gilpin '79**

Chairman, Task Force on Strategic Planning

sgilpin@umcdiscipleship.org

(615) 944-9711





## PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE

### Bart Boatright '82 Shares Experience with Epsilon Omicron

Gaining the skills necessary to own a large company can be hard to come by. For **Bart Boatright '82**, the owner of Red Dog Construction based in Jenks, Okla., those leadership skills and gaining confidence came from his time in Epsilon Omicron at Oklahoma State. His commercial contracting company has won many awards over the years, including Tulsa and Oklahoma Magazine's Best of the Best award.

For Bart, ATΩ was a family affair, as his dad, **Pete Boatright, Delta Kappa '56**, was an ATΩ at The University of Oklahoma. "I was interested in joining a fraternity as I had always admired the friendships my father had through ATΩ," Bart said. So when he arrived in Stillwater, Okla., his freshman year, he made sure to make an effort to reach out to Epsilon Omicron.

Being in ATΩ allowed Bart to learn and grow in several areas that he has carried with him since graduating from OSU. "My ATΩ experience gave me better skills to work and play with many different types of personalities," Bart said. "It allowed me to be more patient and tolerant when things don't go my way." He enjoyed the camaraderie that came with living in the fraternity and especially enjoyed the Chapter meetings when all the brothers were gathered together in the same place.



After earning his bachelor's degree in construction management, Bart relied on many ATΩs that his father met in college for guidance as he was starting his career. That led him to Dallas, Texas, where he worked with a large general contractor. After that, Bart and his wife, Cathy, moved north to Seattle, Wash., where they lived for 10 years before they moved back to Tulsa.

Being back in Tulsa has allowed Bart to reconnect with fellow ATΩ alumni and brothers. "It has been really enjoyable to see many of my brothers I was in school with and to meet several who were there before and after my time in the house," Bart said. He encourages other alumni who may have lost touch with the Chapter to come back for an event or just stop by a tailgate the next time you are on campus for a game. "The current members are very welcoming, and they like to hear

about what our experience in the house was all about," Bart said. "You would be surprised how good it feels to see a few of your old friends that were in the house when you were there."

Bart and his wife, Cathy, met at OSU, where she was a Chi Omega who lived next door to the Alpha Tau Omega house. They have two sons who attend Oklahoma University, Davis and Bryant. Bart enjoys mountain biking, road cycling, staying involved with his family's church, and spending time and taking trips with his family. If you'd like to get in touch with Bart, you can reach him at [bartboatright@gmail.com](mailto:bartboatright@gmail.com).

## WELCOME, NEW BROTHERS

**Braden Boyd '17**  
Civil Engineering  
Flower Mound, Texas

**Hayden Cashion '17\***  
Overland Park, Kan.  
(Cousins **Connor Osborn,**  
*Delta Theta '07* and  
**Sam Osborn,**  
*Delta Theta '09*)

**Don Chasteen '17**  
Industrial Engineering  
Inola, Okla.

**Nick Chiconas '17\***  
Computer Engineering  
Edmond, Okla.  
(Cousin  
**Tucker Chaney '11**)

**Jarod Davis '17**  
Economics, Pre-Law  
Prosper, Texas

**Sam Gray '17**  
Sociology  
Edmond, Okla.

**Jarod Grubbs '17**  
Accounting  
Plano, Texas

**Austin Hand '17**  
Finance  
Mansfield, Texas

**Carson Hogstad '17**  
Computer Science  
Duncan, Okla.

**Robert Hotson '17**  
Actuarial and  
Financial Mathematics  
Jenks, Okla.

**Micah Ihrig '17**  
Accounting  
Tulsa, Okla.

**Landon Kersgieter '17**  
Aerospace Engineering  
Tulsa, Okla.

**Kazi Maheen '17**  
Accounting  
Jenks, Okla.

**Cade Meyerdirk '17**  
Nutritional Sciences,  
Allied Health  
Gunter, Texas

**Stuart Moser '17**  
Finance/Accounting  
Fort Smith, Ark.

**Caleb Parker '17**  
Human Nutrition, Pre-Med  
Jenks, Okla.

**Sam Peaden '17**  
Construction Management  
McKinney, Texas

**Austin Puckett '17**  
Applied Sociology  
Edmond, Okla.

**Jax Silva '17**  
Actuarial and Financial  
Mathematics, Pre-Med  
Mustang, Okla.

**Leighton Steph '17\***  
Business Economics and  
Quantitative Studies  
Oklahoma City, Okla.  
(Father **Carter Steph '85**)

**Garrett Stephens '17**  
Accounting  
Houston, Texas



*Our new Epsilon Omicron brothers after initiation last fall.*

**Andrew Tran '17**  
Physiology, Pre-Med  
Tulsa, Okla.

**Evan Tom '17**  
Accounting  
Tulsa, Okla.

**Matt Tucker '17**  
Management  
Information Systems  
Keller, Texas

**Eduardo Vargas '17**  
Applied Sociology  
Tulsa, Okla.

**Tyler Walker '17**  
Accounting  
McKinney, Texas

*\*Legacy, relative in parentheses*





# Epsilon Omicron Soars This Spring

*Chapter Continues to Build on Success into the Future*

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Epsilon Omicron Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega at Oklahoma State University, and I am proud to report that there has never been a better time to be an ATΩ. Our Chapter remains competitive in every aspect of OSU Greek life, and our membership has developed into one of the most prestigious brotherhoods, both on campus as well as nationally.

## A Year of Accomplishments

We should recognize 2016 as one of the most successful years in recent Chapter history with such accomplishments as receiving the fifth-place trophy in the America's Greatest Homecoming celebration house decorations competition for the first time in more than 20 years, signing one of our most competitive pledge classes ever, and receiving National Top-Chapter runner-up for the second year in a row.

## Committed to Excellence

In the upcoming year, ATΩ is in a unique position to assert ourselves as a dominate force in the OSU Greek community and we are already making strides to improve academically, socially, and overall as a brotherhood. Both the executive board and I share the mindset that past success does not guarantee future progress, so we remain committed to the overall mission of providing a positive experience for not only our undergraduate brothers, but for all of our invaluable stakeholders as well.

## Alumni Involvement Key to Chapter Success

Our Chapter has greatly benefitted from the increased alumni support shown to us during the



*Brothers Braden Duffel '14 and Forrest Rice '16 with their YMCA boy's football league team they volunteered to coach last fall.*

past few years, and we owe much of our success to this involvement. I would like to thank those brothers who are currently supporting us either monetarily or through their involvement in one of our alumni groups. I would also like to use this opportunity to invite those who are not actively participating in supporting our Chapter to consider renewing your commitment to the brotherhood that you benefitted from as a young man.

It is the honor of a lifetime to serve as the Worthy Master of this truly incredible group of men, and I will do my best to both honor and extend the legacy of our brotherhood, based upon eternal and immutable principles, which we all so greatly benefit.

Love and Respect,  
**Nathan Turvaville '14**  
Chapter President  
(405) 780-1702  
nate.turvaville@okstate.edu



*Members traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to watch OSU play in the Alamo Bowl last fall.*



*Men of Alpha Tau Omega and women of Alpha Omicron Pi after their first win at Football Frenzy, a football tournament that is part of OSU's Homecoming celebrations.*



*Brothers Evan Rochat '13 and Carter Clancy '14 attend on OSU football game with honorary alumnus Mike Greenwood.*



*Brothers Zach Kensinger '16, Carter Clancy '14, Brian Shrull '14, and Evan Rochat '13 show their OSU pride alongside honorary sweetheart Anne Greenwood.*



*Fans with the Epsilon Omicron ATΩ C-League intramural team, the Air Ballers, after their first victory of the season.*



# Join Us!

## Second Annual Brotherhood Retreat and Campout

April 28-30

Join us on April 28-30 for our second annual campout and retreat at Lake Carl Blackwell in Stillwater. All brothers, actives, and alumni are welcome to join us for a weekend of great food, fun, and fishing. RSVP by contacting **John Campbell '86** on our Oklahoma State ATΩ Facebook page. For more details, please contact John at (918) 605-8052 or [john.a.l.campbell@gmail.com](mailto:john.a.l.campbell@gmail.com).

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

**Nathan Turvaville '14**

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Vice President

**Albert Meza '14**

Chaplain

**Garret Stephens '16**

Treasurer

**Aaron Dittmer '15**

Secretary

**Zach Kensinger '15**

Recruitment Chairman

**Forrest Rice '15**

(918) 409-1737

[forrest.rice@okstate.edu](mailto:forrest.rice@okstate.edu)

Risk Management Officer

**Rhett Upthegrove '13**

Historian

**Zach Johnston '14**

Sergeant-at-Arms

**Cade Meyerdirk '16**

Doorkeeper

**Leighton Steph '16**

Membership Education Chairman

**Will Gibson '15**

Treasurer Elect

**Robbie Hotson '16**

# EPSILON OMICRON NEWS

Alpha Tau Omega

Epsilon Omicron Chapter

9300 North May Ave. #400-205

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**ATTENTION:** This newsletter is intended for alumni, undergraduates, and parents. If your son is still attending Oklahoma State University, he will receive a copy at the Chapter House. If he has graduated, please send his new address to update our records. Thank you.

## Recruitment 2017

**D**o you know a graduating senior who might make a good ATΩ? Are you interested in helping with our recruitment efforts this summer? We welcome your involvement.

Alumni may host a cookout, sponsor an event like a baseball game or a Top Golf outing, make a donation, or join us at a recruitment event this summer. Please contact Recruitment Chairman **Forrest Rice '15** as soon as possible if you're interested in giving back to ATΩ through recruitment. We hope to finalize our summer recruitment events before the end of April. Please contact Forrest at (918) 409-1737 or [forrest.rice@okstate.edu](mailto:forrest.rice@okstate.edu) for more information.



*Men of ATΩ with women of Alpha Delta Pi after their Spring Sing practice. This year's theme was "Game Show."*