



# EPSILON OMICRON NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF ALPHA TAU OMEGA FRATERNITY

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY ▲ SPRING 2018

## TIME TO REBUILD

### ATΩ House Corporation Explores Renovation Options

**“A** Chapter House that fosters growth, academic success, and fellowship.” If you read your fall 2017 newsletter, this was the goal of the Epsilon Omicron Task Force on Strategic Planning. This goal and the others referenced were authored by alumni and actives last spring. As promised, information and updates on this goal will be shared as appropriate based on a strategic timeline.

If you have visited campus in the last five years, you have probably noticed what I have referred to as the “Greek arms race.” By my count, of the 22 IFC-recognized fraternities with a chapter house on campus, 11 have either rebuilt or remodeled their house or are in the process of doing so. The alumni leadership, recognizing the fast-changing landscape of the Greek community at Oklahoma State University, hired Pennington & Company to conduct a pre-campaign feasibility study to determine the potential for a capital campaign to fund an expansion of our chapter house or construct a new one entirely.

During the fall of 2017, a group of alumni were interviewed by Pennington & Company. Some key findings: Epsilon Omicron alumni responded “very positively” when asked about their ATΩ experience. Upon review of two potential projects (rebuild or remodel), EO alumni see these projects as “significant” and un-

derstand the importance to provide “competitive housing” in response to the aforementioned “Greek arms race.” Ninety-eight percent of interviewees feel the potential projects are “important” or “very important.” When asked if other alumni would support a campaign, 78% of interviewees replied “Yes”; 22% responded “Maybe.” This is an above-average level of support for a campaign compared to other Pennington studies, including other OSU and OU fraternities. The majority of interviewees (61%) stated they are in favor of construction of a new house vs. remodel. And finally, 91% indicated “Yes,” EO should proceed with a fundraising campaign. Please contact me if you are interested in seeing a summary of the feasibility study report.

The EO alumni leadership recognizes we must make an investment in the ATΩ Chapter House for the long-term viability of our fraternity. In the coming months, we will work to implement the recommendations from the Feasibility study as we look toward the future of ATΩ at Oklahoma State. We will keep you informed of any plans as they develop. As always, we welcome your feedback, questions, concerns, and most of all your participation.

Love and Respect,

**Dan Oliver '78**

House Corporation President

osuollie@hotmail.com / (405) 740-2628

### *From Small Town Kid to Well-Decorated Air Force Pilot*

#### JIM PHILLIPS '66 DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF BROTHERHOOD

**F**or most, starting college is a big life transition. You move away from home for the first time, build new friendships, and discover your passions, all in a new and sometimes unfamiliar place. For **Jim Phillips '66**, moving from his small hometown of Pawhuska to Stillwater was “getting into the big world” as he put it. Once at college he wanted to be a part of fraternity and connect with others. “I found that connection with ATΩ,” he said.

As a member of Epsilon Omicron, Jim was heavily involved in planning the Chapter’s social events. “What I really remember was serving as social chairman. The position fit me well,” he said. While in the Chapter he fond-

ly remembers his time living in the annex, Lake Blackwell, and the scavenger hunt during initiation. Being an involved member of the Chapter taught Jim a lot about diversity, acceptance, and working hard. He was driven by his brothers, who he says, like him, also had goals and ambitions. “You learn how to interact with other people and get to know others,” Jim stated. “It was also a great time to learn diversity.”

Through the lessons Jim learned from his ATΩ brothers and by surrounding himself with fellow go-getters, Jim went on to pursue a career in the Air Force with the intent of working for the FBI. While the FBI dream did not become a reality, Jim became a well-versed pilot for the Air Force, taking his talents across the world. He wrote the war plans for the Air Force’s Strategic Forces for Desert Shield and was an Arabic speaker. Jim also served with the 17th Air Division during the War and was awarded the Bronze Star. During his military career, he also had the distinct honor of commissioning his pledge son, **Fred Brooks '68**, into the Navy as an officer. “It was a special opportunity that I will never forget,” Jim said.

(Continued on page 4)





*EO members accept the first-place trophy at Phi Mu Air Rock, a philanthropic lip sync battle for Greeks at OSU.*



## A Strong Spring for ATΩ

### *Epsilon Omicron Continues Philanthropic and Volunteer Work*

The spring semester was off to a fast start this year, including the initiation of 27 members to Epsilon Omicron in January. We believe these new brothers will make for great partners in promoting our fellowship and will certainly contribute to the academic success our Chapter.

#### *Gatorfest Raises More Than \$16,000 for YMCA*

Our annual Gatorfest was a huge success, raising over \$16,000 to benefit the YMCA of Stillwater, Oklahoma! We will be one of three chapters sponsoring Rock the Block in April, which will benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of America, Stillwater YMCA, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

#### *Cleaning Up the Community for Senior Citizens*

Our members have been volunteering at the YMCA as coaches for their youth sports teams. As a Chapter, we participate in Into the Streets, a community clean-up program, in which our brothers tidy up Stillwater neighborhoods for elderly residents.

#### *Varsity Revue and Homecoming Preparations Underway*

We participated in the Freshman Follies with Chi Omega in a comedy that revolved around working in an office. Our group received the award for most creative and placed third overall in the competition. This year, we are excited to be paired with Kappa Alpha Theta for the annual show competition called Varsity Revue. We received word that we will be paired with Alpha Xi Delta for this fall's Homecoming. It will be exciting to create a Homecoming deck that we can be proud of.

#### *Living the Legacy*

The Epsilon Omicron Chapter is proud of our heritage, and we work hard to live up to the legacy of our alumni. Your support is invaluable to us, and we thank you for all you do. We invite you to them visit us any time. Also, we want to thank the Parents Club for all their support throughout the year.

Fraternally,

**Louis Baresh '16**

Chapter President

baresh@okstate.edu / (214) 263-0510

## Chapter Officers

President

**Louis Baresh '16**

baresh@okstate.edu  
(214) 263-0510

Vice President

**Aaron Dittmer '15**

Chaplain

**Austin Puckett '17**

Treasurer

**Robbie Hotson '16**

Secretary

**Josh Payne '16**

Recruitment Chairman

**Mitch McKie '17**

mimckie@okstate.edu  
(469) 744-8623

Risk Management Officer

**Pearse Morton '18**

Historian

**Mason Hooper '17**

Sergeant-at-Arms

**Josh Lamar '18**

Doorkeeper

**Max Lapedis '18**

Membership Education Chairman

**Garrett Stephens '16**

Treasurer-Elect

**Michael Kelso '18**







## Congratulations, Graduating Seniors

**W**e thank our graduating seniors for their hard work and dedication to Alpha Tau Omega and the Oklahoma State University. We wish you the very best in all of your endeavors after graduation and welcome you to the prestigious class as Epsilon Omicron alumni.

### Joey McGrath '13

Industrial Engineering and Management  
Serving as a lieutenant at Travis Air Force Base in Calif.

### Rhett Upthegrove '13

Industrial Engineering and Management  
Moving to Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Okla., to fly the T-6 Texan for the USAF

### Tanner Booth '14

Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
Planning to pursue a career in government contracting in the Dallas-Fort Worth area

### Ryan Craig '14

Civil Engineering  
Working for Infrastructure Engineers Inc. in Fort Worth, Texas

### Andrew Cordray '14

Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering  
Working for Exxon Mobil in Houston

### Braden Duffel '14

Marketing Management  
Planning to pursue a sales position in Oklahoma City or Tulsa

### Zachary Johnston '14

Strategic Communications  
Pursuing a career in digital media marketing in Texas

### Carson Lile '14

Construction Management  
Searching for jobs as a general contractor in Okla.

### Nathan Major '14

Chemical Engineering  
Planning to move to Tulsa to work as a process engineer for HollyFrontier

### Albert Meza '14

Industrial Engineering and Management  
Working for Exxon Mobil in Spring, Texas

### Zachery Tunin '14

Geology  
Planning to attend graduate school at Oklahoma State University and earn a master's in geology

## WELCOME, NEW BROTHERS



### Blake Anthamatten '17

Tulsa, Okla.

### Mike Kelso '17

Newton, Kan.

### Logan Ransom '17

Frisco, Texas

### Colten Cates '17

Overland Park, Kan.

### Josh LaMar '17

Jenks, Okla.

### Trent Schein '17\*

Plano, Texas

### Gavin Doyle '17

Harwinton, Conn.

### Grant Langford '17

Coweta, Okla.

### Kale Schneider '17

Claremore, Okla.

### Cooper Driskill '17

Oklahoma City, Okla.

### Max Lapides '17

Encino, Calif.

### Justin Schwarz '17

Moore, Okla.

### Trey Gradnigo '17

Edmond, Okla.

### Cameron McCormick '17

Owasso, Okla.

### Marlon Shepherdson '17

Adelaide, South Australia

### Rustin Ham '17

Owasso, Okla.

### Pearse Morton '17

Tulsa, Okla.

### Calton Sidebottom '17

Coweta, Okla.

### Chase Harrison '17

Oklahoma City, Okla.

### Ryan Narrell '17

Bixby, Okla.

### Brice Snapp '17

Enid, Okla.

### Noah Hayes '17

Dallas, Texas

### Jared Nechamkin '17

Wylie, Texas

### Zach Thompson '17

Piedmont, Okla.

### Jayden Howerton '17

Collinsville, Okla.

### Carson Petersen '17

Owasso, Okla.

\*Legacy

### Nathan Turvaville '14

Corporate Finance  
Planning to go to law school

### Chase Wayant '14

Sociology  
Commissioning in the Army in May and will attend infantry officer training at Fort Benning

### Carter Clancy '15

Marketing and Management  
Planning to pursue a career in marketing or sales

### Brian Shrull '15

Sports Media  
Searching for positions as a sports reporter at a local TV station

### Chris Kotch '16

Management and Marketing  
Searching for positions in sales and management

### Forrest Rice '16

MSIS with a concentration in Information Assurance  
Searching for positions in IT consulting

# Save the Date

**Greek Discovery Day**  
Saturday, April 7

**Mom's Day/Spring Sing**  
Saturday, April 14

**ATΩ Campout,  
Lake Carl Blackwell**  
Friday, April 27-29

**IFC Signing Day, Stillwater**  
Saturday, June 23

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Alpha Tau Omega  
Epsilon Omicron Chapter  
P.O. Box 12691  
Oklahoma City, OK 73157

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*ATΩ partnered with KAΘ for  
this year's Varsity Revue.*



*Our chapter was deemed "most creative"  
at the 2018 Varsity Revue competition.*

**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.

### Connect with Us Online



**Website**  
[www.atookstate.com](http://www.atookstate.com)



**Facebook**  
Oklahoma State  
Alpha Tau Omega



**Twitter**  
[@ATOokstate](https://twitter.com/ATOokstate)

### Chapter Eternal

**Edward W. Jones '55** entered Chapter Eternal on April 13, 2017, at 80 years old. Ed graduated from OSU with a degree in business administration in 1961. He started his own construction company, Jones Service Company Inc., which he sold in 1993, and did consulting work until his retirement in 1999. Ed had a passion for aviation. He enjoyed and built numerous experimental aircrafts. In his spare time, he loved to fish, play golf, hunt and spend time with his children and grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, Lana, and four daughters: Cheri Jenkins, of Enid; Tina Perry, of Fredericksburg, Va.; Teresa Stout, of Crescent; and Tori Lamrouex and husband Keith, of Morrison. He is also survived by his sisters, Marcia Marshall and husband Richard, of Tulsa; and Paula Halstead and husband Gary, of Bella Vista, Ark.; and his brother, Ben Davis and wife Deb, of Luther. He leaves behind 10 grandchildren: James London and wife Kelly; Samuel London and wife Harmony; Kaitlyn Perry; Rebecca Perry; Keaton Perry; Tadra Moone and husband Tim; Haleigh Stout; Skylar Stout; Jarad Frisk and Tynli Nickell; as well as seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his aunt and uncle, and his youngest brother, Matt Davis.

### JIM PHILLIPS '66 *(Continued from page 1)*

Jim's time spent in ATΩ is cherished. While he's not able to stay involved with the Chapter locally, he does still keep in touch with his pledge brothers. He encourages those who may have lost touch with the Chapter to reconnect with those they were closest to at Epsilon Omicron. "We get older, but we don't change much," Jim says. "That bond doesn't change. Those connections are special."

Being a part of something bigger than yourself can bring unique and lesson-learning experiences when you invest in your chapter and the life of your brothers. "Alpha Tau Omega taught me that there is diversity in people and that there is good in everyone," he said. "When I came to ATΩ, I was just a small town kid, and the fraternity helped me grow and develop."

Jim lives in St. Charles, Missouri, with his wife, Deborah. Jim is now retired but continues to frequently travel around the United States; he and Deborah hope to travel internationally after she retires. Jim also enjoys camping, hunting, and woodworking. If you would like to reconnect with Jim, he can be reached at [phillips692@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phillips692@sbcglobal.net).