

# Alpha Tau Omega - Fall

2020

## ARM & HAMMER



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**To the Brothers of the Gamma Sigma Chapter,**

### **COVID-19 Update**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the house decided to create another elected position to handle any planning, regulations, and issues that may arise due to COVID-19. The Covid Officer thus far has been crucial in implementing and maintaining safety protocols for in and out of house brothers. Over the summer a move in plan was developed by Kevin Krupa (President), Alex Poll (Vice President), and Mike Biando (Treasure), with Steve Gale advising the planning and the school ultimately approving it. The plan involved a five week reopening that broke down like this: Week One the houses were separated and groups were placed into pods based on floor, Week Two the pods were allowed to mix within the house and Mrs. Cat can come in, Week Three the houses were allowed to mix, Week Four out of house brothers were allowed into the house, and Week Five guests would be allowed at the house. The use of masks, gloves, and proper cleaning supplies has played an important role in the success of each of the weeks. Everyone wears a mask while in the kitchen and main areas, but do not have to in their rooms, and out of house brothers are expected to be wearing masks the entire time in the house. The week five plan of allowing guests has been pushing back a week and a half just to be safe, but once guests are allowed, they must be approved by the executive board.

The school is providing two COVID-19 tests per week for each of us and ATO has done very well in minimizing COVID-19 related risks, as we have had 0 confirmed cases. The chapter and the school are prepared for positive cases, however, the school as a whole has also been doing very well. As of now, there have been only 7 confirmed cases out of 33,000 total tests in the past 30 days and 0 confirmed cases in the past 7 days. Despite the positive news, we still need to keep

our restrictions tight as the city of Worcester has not controlled COVID and has had 137 confirmed cases in just the past 7 days.

Sports seasons have been cancelled; however, athletes are still able to participate in sport related workouts on the rooftop with proper social distancing and face coverings. After about four weeks, the school is starting to let players play their sport in a limited fashion rather than simply doing calisthenics and running. There is hope to return to normal sports with proper face coverings by the end of the season.

The house has been and will continue to be vigilant in protecting ourselves and our community from the ongoing pandemic and we are optimistic about the future. We ask that if you would like to come to the house that you reach out to Kevin Krupa, so that we can make sure everyone will be safe.

## Executive Board

|                                 |                    |                              |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| President                       | Kevin Krupa        | kevinkrupa52@gmail.com       | 781-258-4954 |
| Vice President                  | Alex Poll          | arpoll13@gmail.com           | 848-480-5808 |
| Treasurer                       | Mike Biando        | mikebiando18@gmail.com       | 770-557-5483 |
| Risk Manager                    | Josh Reeder        | jreeder17@gmail.com          | 603-921-6438 |
| New Member Educator             | Sebastian Royo     | sebastian.royo@gmail.com     | 774-329-0015 |
| Rush Chairman/<br>Covid Officer | Mike Levene        | levenemikey@gmail.com        | 203-957-2460 |
| Chaplain                        | Osa Fredrick       | osasumwenilekhuoba@gmail.com | 860-970-1407 |
| Historian                       | Adam Klosner       | klosneradam@gmail.com        | 315-985-5908 |
| Secretary                       | Brendan McClelland | brenmcc41@gmail.com          | 781-927-9311 |

## President Update

The current number of brothers in our Fraternity is 53, excluding two graduate student brothers, who are considered alumni but remain present in-house activities and we have two undergraduate brothers who are inactive till the end of the semester. We currently have 29 brothers living in the house. The number of brothers living in the house is fairly low, but it is a trend across most of the other fraternities on campus, so this is a problem the community and the IF Council are tackling together. As a house we are doing various improvements to make it nicer and the executive board, along with all in house brothers are all working to find ways to increase the number of brothers living in house. The house has a good mix of athletes (soccer, football, rowing, and club

sport) and nonathletes who are fairly involved on campus, doing things like working for the Rubin Campus Center, working for Admissions, being Tour Guides, being a part of S.M.A.R.T, and various other things.

This past year we had a fundraiser to help one of our brothers pay for chemotherapy after relapsing. Most of the brotherhood offered up their hair to be shaved by the WPI community and friends in exchange for donations to support Alex's treatment costs. Thank you to all who donated! Over \$10,000 was raised, and I am happy to say that the brother is healthy and back living in the house this year. The dedication and energy put in by the brotherhood to help raise that amount of money in just a few months, showed to me the potential we have regarding philanthropy. Last year our signature event was Kicking Out Cancer which was an indoor soccer tournament, where we partnered with Phi Sigma Sigma and Colleges Against Cancer, hoping to raise money for Relay for Life. This year we plan on having a signature philanthropy event with either Phi Sigma Sigma or Alpha Phi and were originally hoping to do a larger more campus wide event, but due to COVID-19 it will be very difficult to pull off.

Love and Respect,  
Kevin Krupa

## Vice-President Update

The Spring and Fall of 2020 have been strange but also very productive for the brotherhood. We have all worked very hard to bring back systems of accountability that have been forgotten or not passed on over the years. This year especially holding each other accountable has been very important. Fines and the judicial board have played important roles in changing a culture of lackadaisical destruction. It has been very effective and one of the main reasons we have been able to be so productive as a collective. Some projects that have been completed are:

- Exterminating rodents inside the house (funded by the Alumni Board)
- Passing our fall fire/health and safety inspection
- Fixing the ceiling in C-house
- Bringing back the Arm and Hammer
- Fully renovating the side yard (see more about it on page 6 & 7)
- Reviving the side kick program
- Keeping a strict food order budget and making monthly menus
- Getting new locks for all the doors
- Getting in loving memory of TUNA shirts for every brother
- Getting new chairs for Angel Hall (courtesy of the Alumni Board)

It is a wide variety of stuff, but all have been completed within a month, which is great. Looking to the future we are looking to:

- Get new windows for Chapter Room and Old B's (Mushroom)
- Fully renovate the laundry room, storage closets, and pantry in the basement
- Properly organize the archives in Old B's, a lot of history is just sitting around in there

Hopefully by the spring Arm and Hammer I can report the completion of these projects. If any alumni are looking to be involved in the completion of these projects in any way, donations and hands on work alike, please reach out to me. My phone number and email are in the table with all the executive board information.

Love and Respect,  
Alex Poll, VP

## Treasurer Update

In terms of the monetary aspect of our fraternity, our accounts are transitioning from inadequate to getting by. In the recent years, several bills, which recently resurfaced, went unpaid, and the officer transition process was insufficient, causing the budget to be constructed incorrectly. Further, we under collected for the term, in which everyone was taking their coursework from home due to the pandemic. The previous treasurer, James Werosta, addressed a portion of these concerns by constructing a transition plan that I will be able to pass on to the next treasurer. Moreover, the current executive board addressed the remainder of the concerns by reconstructing the budget and updating the method by which we track spending.

Looking forward, our biggest concern is switching the bank account over into the hands of the current and future treasurers. To explain, the bank allowed the previous 3 treasurers to obtain access to the account without removing the previous part owners; however, they are now requiring all part owners be present for any addition or removal of a member to said account. That said, I intend to create a legal document requesting the removal of the previous treasurers that will need to be signed and notarized to officially pass the account over to me.

Love and Respect,  
Mike Biando, Treasurer

## Rush Chair Update

Rush this year will have to be slightly different due to the restrictions in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We will be doing a combination of virtual events over zoom, as well as a few socially distant in person events. We encourage any interested alumni to join any of the virtual events. For more recent alumni, you will notice on the rush calendar below that we tried to continue some of the traditional events where possible. For example, we will still be doing the Chinese and Italian food nights, we will still be watching the Patriots games (even though Tom Brady is gone), and we will absolutely still go bowling. In addition to that we will be hosting a variety of tournaments and other virtual events where we can interact with potential new members. We currently have 29 brothers living in the house and we are losing 7 seniors which would put us down to 22 in house brothers. Despite the abnormal rush, we are confident that we can get 20-25 new members to fill the house back up to its capacity next year.

Love and Respect,  
Mike Levene, Rush



## Alpha Tao Omega (ATΩ) Rush 2020

8 & 10 Regent Street



| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| Oct. 18  | 19  | 20   | 21  | 22   | 23<br><b>Rush Starts</b><br>Virtual Fraternity Showcase | 24<br>BBQ for the boys!<br>1-3 pm @ ATO<br>     |
| 25<br>Patriots @ 49's<br>4:30 pm @ ATO<br>             | 26<br>Chinese Food Night<br>5:30 pm @ ATO<br>                           | 27<br>Virtual House Tour and Information Session @ 6:30 pm<br>Zoom link will be provided | 28<br>Warzone Wednesday @ 7:30 pm                   | 29<br>"Talent" Show @ 9 pm<br>Zoom link will be provided | 30  | 31<br>Among Us (with prizes) @ 2:00 pm<br>      |
| Nov. 1<br>Patriots @ Bills<br>1:00 pm @ ATO<br>        | 2<br>Trivia Night (with prizes) @ 7:30 pm<br>Zoom link will be provided | 3  | 4<br>Italian Food Night<br>5:30 pm @ ATO<br>        | 5<br>Fifa Tournament (with prizes) @ 8:30 pm<br>         | 6   | 7<br>Brunch for the boys!<br>11:30 am @ ATO<br> |
| 8<br>WING NIGHT<br>Steelers @ Cowboys<br>4:30 pm @ ATO | 9<br>Patriots @ Jets<br>8:15 pm @ ATO<br>                               | 10<br>Rocket League Tournament (with prizes) @ 9:00 pm                                   | 11<br>Warzone Wednesday @ 7:30 pm                   | 12<br>Bowling (invite only) @ 7:30 pm<br>                | 13  | 14<br>Among Us (with prizes) @ 2:00 pm<br>      |
| 15<br>Patriots @ Ravens<br>8:15 pm @ ATO<br>           | 16  | 17   | 18<br>Bid Dinner<br>5:30 pm @ ATO (invite only)<br> | 19<br><b>BID NIGHT</b><br>                               | 20  | 21  |

\* All in person events will require all members to adhere to state, local, school, and ATO Covid guidelines

## New Member Educator

This past year we had 21 new members join our fraternity. The year prior we had 24 new members. These numbers have been great to see as the two classes before were less than 15 and the number of brothers in the chapter had been dropping. A lot of work has been put into recruitment, which caused our increase in class size. I know the rush chair has touched on the subject but still great to see the hard work pay off.

We have adjusted two major nights in our new member program, Tuna night and Ma Fell night. Tuna night this year was on zoom unfortunately, and we had members from the classes of '18, '19, and '20 join the zoom call and tell stories about Tuna to the new members to show how much he means to our fraternity. It was imperative that we created an event where the new members would be able to understand the character and significance of Tuna, especially because no one currently in the Chapter had the pleasure of meeting Tuna. Ma Fell night is when the new members come up to the house, divide up into teams, and have a cooking competition. The teams cook three courses, and each course must contain ingredients given to them. Everyone eats the food prepared while stories about Ma Fell are told. The night is intended to bring the house together by talking about Ma Fell while doing something she did for the brotherhood for so many years. Although she would not be happy with the mess we made in the kitchen! This was a very fun event and a strong addition to the new member education program.

Love and Respect,  
Seb, NME

## Secretary

The mail pileup inside the first door of Main House has been sorted and put into the appropriate brother's mailbox and the mail is checked frequently and kept up to date. The whiteboard calendar in Angel Hall is kept up to date with important brotherhood and school events as well as birthdays, class GPA, and a quote of the month. When rush starts, every event we have will be posted on the whiteboard calendar to remind the brotherhood of upcoming rush events. I started an attendance excel file which I use to keep track of house meeting attendance and I make sure to send out the meeting minutes to the entire chapter after the meeting is over.

Love and Respect,  
Brendan McClelland, Secretary

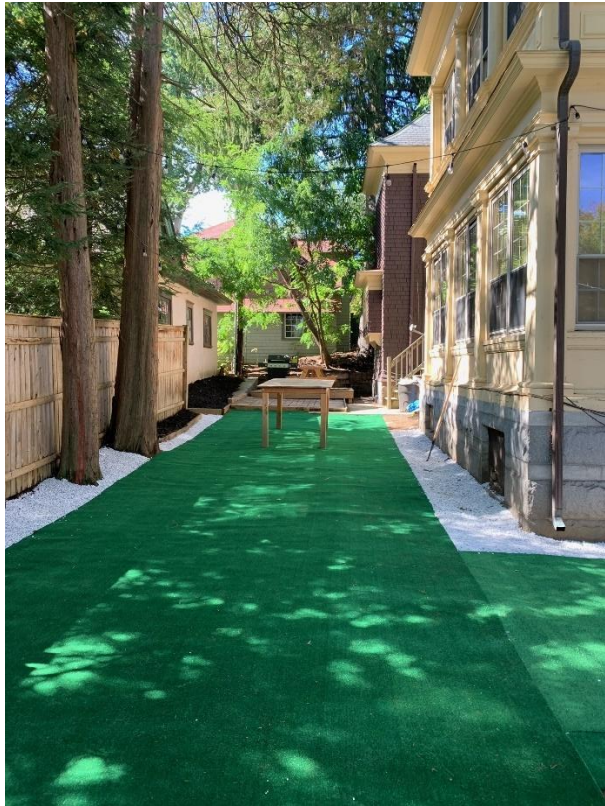
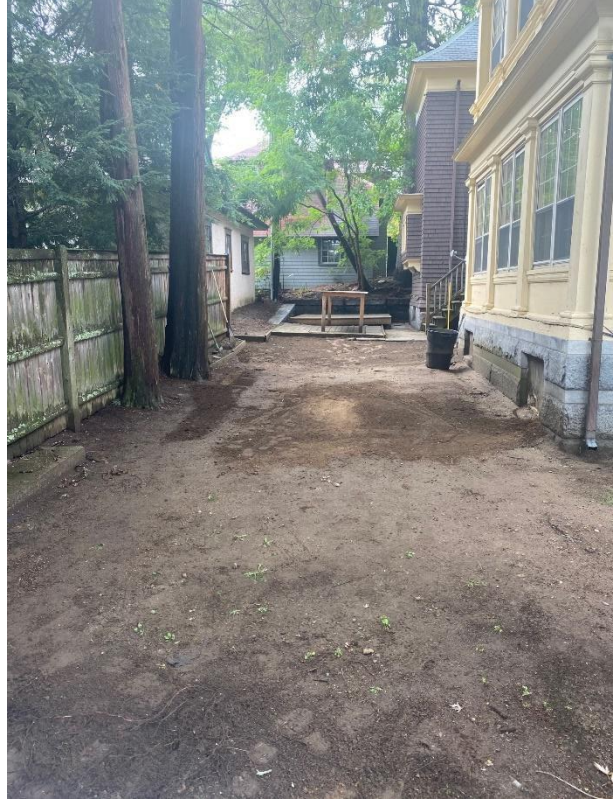
## Risk Manager/Chaplain

Due to the current pandemic, our brotherhood is limited in the activities we can hold as well as the capacity of people at each gathering. While this is of course an unfortunate situation, at least we can say that the majority of health and safety risks towards the house and its brothers have been mitigated. I hope that all of you are staying safe and healthy in these trying times.

L&R  
Joshua Reeder, Health and Safety Officer  
Osa Fredrick, Chaplain

## PR Chair

We are excited to reveal to our ATO alumni a project that some of the members of the Gamma Sigma chapter had designed over the summer and completed during the first weekend back at school. The side yard got a makeover! The project originally began when Matt Woods '20 and a team of brothers installed a new fence parallel to 10 Regent Street along the left side of Main house. This enabled a private space for brothers to hang out in when the seasons permitted. The only problem was that it lacked fertile grass, became muddy, and the old horse-shoe pits were crumbling. At the beginning of our Covid-2020 fall semester, a new team began executing the plans designed over the summer for what the new side yard would look like. Joint Operation brothers Tyler Stack '22, Matteo Cugno '22, and VP Alex Poll '22 spearheaded the project with assistance from some of the members of the Class of '23 to re-vamp the side yard into the ultimate hang out spot. Here, brothers now come to take a break from class, relax, play, and have a good time. Enjoy the before-and-after shots pictured below!



This is a list of our seniors and their majors. These seniors are hungry to get out into the real world and we encourage you to reach out if you know of opportunities.

## Seniors

|                           |                             |              |                                     |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Theodore Adams            | tbadams@wpi.edu             | 781-588-0697 | Mechanical Engineering              |
| Nathaniel Desisto         | natedesisto10@gmail.com     | 207-922-7912 | Mechanical Engineering              |
| Jack Gerulskis            | jfgerulskis@wpi.edu         | 508-808-2068 | Computer Science                    |
| Diego Gonzalez Villalobos | dgonzalezvillabo@wpi.edu    | 786-602-9063 | Electrical and Computer Engineering |
| Spencer Hoagland          | Hoagyjr08@gmail.com         | 860-373-4362 | Civil Engineering                   |
| Sean Kane                 | Seanfkane8@gmail.com        | 607-644-3827 | Mechanical Engineering              |
| Adam Klosner              | klosneradam@gmail.com       | 315-985-5908 | Civil Engineering                   |
| Kevin Krupa               | kevinkrupa52@gmail.com      | 781-258-4954 | Chemical Engineering                |
| Michael Laks              | michaeljlaks@gmail.com      | 973-803-6150 | Robotics Engineering                |
| Brendan McClelland        | brenmcc41@gmail.com         | 781-927-9311 | Mechanical Engineering              |
| Kendall Pacheco           | kendallpacheco99@gmail.com  | 774-400-4404 | Biomedical Engineering              |
| Sebastian Royo            | sebastian.royo@gmail.com    | 774-329-0015 | Industrial Engineering              |
| Jacob Steinman            | stedmanlobsterboy@gmail.com | 207-449-6099 | Mechanical Engineering              |