

## ALPHA TAU OMEGA

Accreditation Report

2008-2009

### Scholarship

- Alpha Tau Omega's fall grade point average was 3.017, which ranks them 11<sup>th</sup> amongst the fraternities and below the All Greek, All Men's and All Fraternity Grade Point Averages. In the spring 2009 semester, the chapter had a 2.936 GPA, which ranked 16<sup>th</sup> overall and below the All Greek, All Men's and All Fraternity Grade Point Averages.
- The chapter's spring 2009 new member grade point average was 2.66, ranking 18<sup>th</sup> out of 20 fraternities.
- In the fall 2008 semester, the chapter had 20% of their men on Dean's List. In the spring 2009 semester, the chapter had 13% of their men on Dean's List.
- The chapter has now fallen out of the top ten fraternity GPA's after consistently ranking in the top ten for five semesters.
- Alpha Tau Omega's plan seems fairly solid and consistent at this point. The committee likes that the chapter require all new members do resumes. The committee considers this a best practice.
- The chapter has established a solid relationship with Professor Nayar. Hopefully this relationship will improve as he comes back to campus this year from being in Washington. Two brothers that studied abroad over the summer met with Dr. Nayar in Prague to discuss future chapter goals and areas of improvement.
- Career day with the chapter's alumni continues to be a solid event
- The committee applauds the chapter for their work with Kelly Grim and Chris Diggs in the area of scholarship.
- The chapter also invited, for the first time, professor Martindale to speak to brothers about alternative internship and job ideas
- Alpha Tau Omega has an academic team structure that works well for their chapter. One informal structure includes both new members and brother on small teams so that they can study and do homework together
- The chapter's formal structure consists of brother in similar academic fields who are paired with one another in order to accomplish their individual academic goals as a team.
- A new program that was implemented through the suggestion of Kelly Grim was a midway semester check in with all brothers to ensure they were making progress in their goal areas
- The chapter also implemented an Ask for Help Night where an upperclassman would be available at the chapter house to answer any questions that members had about a specific topic.
- This year, the chapter elected a New Member Scholarship Chair for the first time. This position was created in order to better transition the new members into general chapter operations and programs

- The committee recommends that the chapter work to gradually increase their 2.25 grade point average standard. The chapter's academic plan seems to be working well and the committee feels that the chapter is now ready to increase their standards in order to continuously improve in this area.

In the area of **Scholarship**, the committee rated Alpha Tau Omega to be a **Silver Chapter**.

## Leadership

- The chapter has built solid relationships on campus in looking for leadership opportunities. The committee recognizes the improvement and recognizes that the chapter is taking their leadership more seriously.
- The chapter's committee structure is something that they take very seriously. The chapter's executive board decided to form committees and sub-chair positions in order to delegate more effectively and involve the entire chapter in issues of internal management.
- The chapter utilizes a self governance organizational structure ensuring that every brother votes on chapter matters, which promotes and encourages peer accountability and respect for the chapter and brothers.
- The chapter is continuing to look for more ways to get involved on campus. New involvements this year included: the Interfraternity Judicial Council (IJC), Spring Serve, the GEM Mentor Program and the Gryphon Society. They didn't highlight that as much. The chapter has to work on ways to integrate this outside leadership into the chapter.
- Outside involvement with other student organizations remains solid for Alpha Tau Omega including: Class of 2011, Wall Street Club, Residence Hall Association and the Lehigh Varsity Hockey Team
- Alpha Tau Omega has looked for realistic opportunities through the Office of Student Leadership Development's programs and workshops.
- The chapter held two SLT workshops on Leadership 101 and Motivation
- The Office of Student Leadership Development recommends that the chapter be more intentional with linking accreditation recommendations in the area of leadership to chapter programming in this area
- The chapter does a great job in working with Alpha Tau Omega Inter/national headquarters. Alpha Tau Omega has a great relationship with their Educational Leadership Consultant.
- Alpha Tau Omega continues to win awards on the National Level at their convention. This year the chapter was recipient of awards such as: Excellence in Pledge Education, Excellence in Campus Involvement & Leadership Development, Excellence in Financial Management, Excellence in Scholarship and True Merit
- The chapter has attended all Regional and National Conferences and Conventions that the ATO organizes and has taken valuable back things to implement in the chapter. This is an area that that the Alpha Tau Omega takes great pride in.

In the area of **Leadership**, the committee rated Alpha Tau Omega to be a **Gold Chapter**.

## Citizenship

- The chapter had two social policy violations involving alcohol and is currently on disciplinary probation through fall 2009. Additionally the chapter was found responsible for a code of conduct violation in regards to respect for others.
- Twelve chapter brothers participated in Patriot Golf Day, a benefit golf tournament at Center Valley Golf Club
- The chapter reached out to New Bethany Ministries for the first time this year and helped out with their Thanksgiving basket food drive
- Also for the first the first time this year, Alpha Tau Omega partnered with Delta Phi and Alpha Phi for their annual breast cancer awareness walk.
- Two Alpha Tau Omega brothers went on a SpringServe trip over the spring semester break.
- With the chapter's new partnership with the Make a Wish Foundation, Alpha Tau Omega sponsored a pie contest to raise money for their Make a Wish family.
- Alpha Tau Omega supported numerous other philanthropic events including: Alpha Chi Omega Luminaries, Panhellenic Pink Day, Adopt-a-Family, FIJI Fall Classic, and Delta Gamma Fashion For a Cure
- The chapter continues their service with the Allentown Salvation Army, including activities such as assisting with dinners as well as organizing and setting up games
- The chapter's community service chair attended all Community Service Office sponsored roundtable discussions
- The chapter's standards board has made massive improvement this year. Dean Mulvihill recognized these improvements and applauds their efforts
- The chapter also had every brother sign an undergraduate agreement statement that covers responsibilities and expectation of each Alpha Tau Omega brother.

In the area of **Citizenship**, the committee rated Alpha Tau Omega to be a **Bronze Chapter**.

### Partnership

- Alpha Tau Omega takes the work that they do with the alumni board very seriously. The chapter president meets with the board president at least once a week for a checkup on how the operations of the chapter are going as well as to organize other alumni events.
- The chapter's alumni board has been markedly improved and that's something the committee is very impressed with. While they are a young alumni board, the committee feels that they've really begun to understand the advances that need to be made by the chapter.
- The chapter worked with the alumni to found alumni networking dinners, the first of which took place in New York City.
- The chapter website has continued to develop. It has been a useful tool to connect alumni to current chapter brothers
- The chapter took advantage of the Ride-Along program offered by the Lehigh Police Department
- The chapter took the continuous recommendation of the committee and expanded their partnerships this year including collaboration with Gamma Phi Beta, Delta Phi, Alpha Pi, the Association of International Students and the Black Student Union.

- Realizing that the organization did not have a national philanthropy to work under, the chapter established a major partnership with the Make a Wish Foundation this year.
- The committee commends the brothers for going on a SpringServe trip and considers this activity as a best practice. The committee recommends that the chapter utilizes their experience to get more chapter members and other fraternity and sorority members involved in the opportunity.
- The chapter continues to host events for both parent's weekend and alumni weekend at their chapter house.
- This year a new partnership was made with Gamma Phi Beta to host parent's weekend as the two chefs of the two organizations are husband and wife.
- The chapter co-hosted the Greek Week Dance Competition with Delta Gamma. The conduct of the chapter's new members and emcees was unacceptable. The chapter showed disrespect to a great deal of other organizations and displayed misogynistic behavior. Considering that partnership was the area the chapter was most working on, as well as the fact that the Alpha Tau Omega and Delta Gamma have been instructed in the past that the running of the Dance Competition had to be run much more diligently, the incidents have caused great concern. Alpha Tau Omega has held those involved accountable, and is working to learn from their mistakes, but such incidents leave a mark on the chapter that is difficult to erase if not taken seriously.

In the area of **Partnership**, the committee rated Alpha Tau Omega to be a **Silver Chapter**.

### **Stewardship**

- The chapter has done a good job with improving their relationship with Residential Services and improving overall operations and leadership transitions.
- The chapter successfully resolved their fall house damages with residential services which resulted in the charged being removed and one of the damages being charged back to an individual brother. Spring damages were also significantly down from the fall and the men continued to do well with charge backs.
- The committee recommends the chapter continue to work with Residential Services on first floor maintenance issues, particularly the dining room.
- The chapter invited the Bethlehem Fire Marshall to the chapter house to speak about the importance of fire safety.
- This year Alpha Tau Omega has been working on getting better acquainted with their ritual. The chapter performed the formal initiation ritual for the first time in a few years during the spring semester
- During the fall semester the chapter was visited by their National Leadership consultant who went over with then a ritual educational goals setting session.
- The chapter is highly involved in intramural sports and implemented an intramural chair to organize and implement all of the chapter's involvement
- The chapter is revamping their newly created website to be more interactive and a useful tool for brothers and potential members to find useful
- The chapter's finances have been solid. One chapter member serves on the FMA board

In the area of **Stewardship**, the committee rated Alpha Tau Omega to be a **Gold Chapter**.

## Overall Rating

Overall Alpha Tau Omega is rated Silver. The chapter's organizational structure is much improved, as well as their relationships with their alumni and the university. Alpha Tau Omega has worked hard to increase leadership and accountability within the chapter and have become much more involved within the greater fraternity and sorority community. The chapter's academic planning is in good shape, and hopefully the GPA will sound head back to a level that chapter had become used to. The chapter has to next take this sense of intentionality to all activities that represent Alpha Tau Omega. The incidents at the Dance competition put a damper on what was the most successful year for the chapter in quite some time. Alpha Tau Omega cannot continue to be the chapter that works intentionally to improve internally, but allow external actions to tarnish the chapter. Chapter leadership is working hard to help the chapter learn from this, and the committee is confident that Alpha Tau Omega's newfound sense of intentionality will assist in this.

The committee assigns Alpha Tau Omega with an overall rating of Silver which is considered a high level of achievement in the accreditation process, with all of the privileges and rewards that accompany such a rating. The rewards/ recognition will be discussed with the chapter's membership at the beginning of the new academic year. Congratulations on your great work and efforts and we hope that Alpha Tau Omega will continue to strive for excellence

### Best Practices:

- Alpha Tau Omega's plan seems fairly solid and consistent at this point. The committee likes that the chapter require all new members do resumes. The committee considers this a best practice.
- The committee commends the brothers for going on a SpringServe trip and considers this activity as a best practice. The committee recommends that the chapter utilizes their experience to get more chapter members and other fraternity and sorority members involved in the opportunity.

### Recommendations:

- The committee recommends that the chapter work to gradually increase their 2.25 grade point average standard. The chapter's academic plan seems to be working well and the committee feels that the chapter is now ready to increase their standards in order to continuously improve in this area.
- The Office of Student Leadership Development recommends that the chapter be more intentional with linking accreditation recommendations in the area of leadership to chapter programming in this area
- The committee recommends the chapter continue to work with Residential Services on first floor maintenance issues, particularly the dining room.

