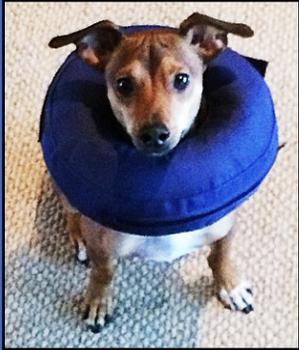


Omega Tau Sigma Theta Chapter Bi-annual Newsletter – Winter 2016

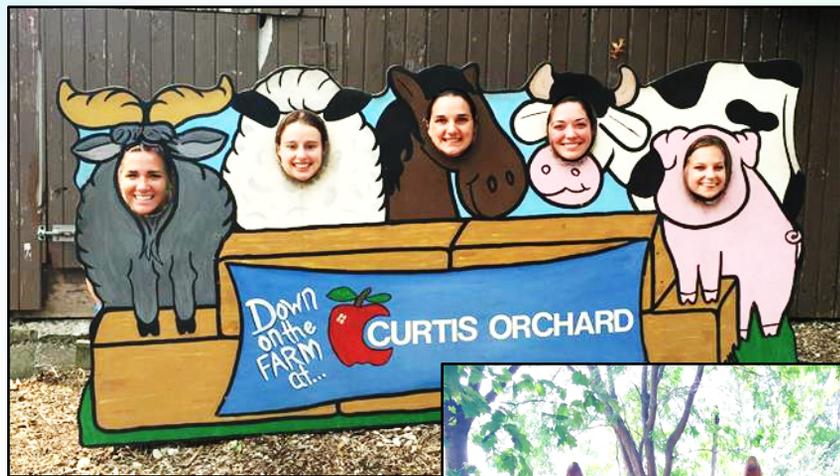


OTS kicks off the year with apple picking at Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch:

OTS went apple picking on August 30th at Curtis Orchard & Pumpkin Patch in Champaign. While there, we enjoyed some doughnuts, apple cider and of course, picked some delicious apples! Fresh air always does the soul good. Being outside in a beautiful orchard got everyone back together to share stories of their summers and prepare us for yet another great year at Vet Med!

-Rachel Hallman, '19

Save the Date!!
Theta presents:
Grand Council
2016
Oct. 21-23!!



Alumni Dues
\$100/year
\$50 for recent grads
[Click Here](#)
to pay or donate
Or visit our
website:
<http://publish.illinois.edu/omegatausigma/>



Providing perspective to the undergraduate pre-veterinary club on applications and experiences:

On September 9th, several OTS members attended the start-of-the-year meeting for the Pre-Vet Student Club on campus to discuss what vet school is like with those students who hope to one day join the profession. About 100 undergraduates attended, as well as two ball pythons, a leopard gecko, and a chocolate chihuahua. Some questions included 'how are classes organized?', 'how do you manage a relationship during vet school?', and 'what kind of experience do you need before vet school?' Undergraduates were advised to keep a record of all of their animal and research experiences during undergraduate, and to be aware of application requirements for a number of different schools. We hope to see some of these members walking the halls of the vet school itself next fall as the class of 2020.

-Joe Cacioppo, '18

This newsletter is published bi-annually by Omega Tau Sigma to share updates with our alumni. Your news, job offers, internships, externships, and other submissions are always welcome and should be sent to illinoisots@gmail.com

Making big dollars at the open house clothing sale:

This past fall OTS held two different clothing sales. The first was at our annual Vet Med Open House and the second was done electronically for the students and staff. At our Open House, we were able to sell a variety of designs to the surrounding community that came to visit. We came up with a bunch of new designs to add to the electronic fall sale. The Open House sale is a great way to help spread the word about Vet Med in the community. The electronic sale was a great opportunity for students and doctors to get some new gear. The proceeds from the two sales helped offset the costs for the shirts for our newest pledge class and also will be put toward Grand Council in 2016 and the scholarship fund.

-Leah Kruckman, '18



Want new OTS clothes? Email us at illinoisots@gmail.com and ask for a copy of our spring clothing sale catalog.



Grand Council 2015 at Oklahoma State University:

This October, Illinois sent two delegates and nine other members to Stillwater, OK for the annual OTS Grand Council. Those members that attended showed special dedication, having to leave for OK immediately after completing their second Final for the first quarter and arriving late that night. Activities included a bar crawl, drinking games with pink butterfly wings at Gonzo Olympics, and Wild West-themed closing night. At Grand Council, multiple issues were discussed at the delegates meeting, including the necessity of owning a house as a chapter, how to increase student and alumni involvement, new funding, and philanthropy opportunities. It was decided that for 2016, Illinois would host Grand Council from October 21st-23rd! Most importantly, the health and wellness of students was a key topic in light of the recent and tragic passing of David Hilton, a second year veterinary student at the Ohio State University and OTS member. Donations can be made to his memorial [here](#).

-Joe Cacioppo, '18

Want more OTS updates? Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2206944131/>



Have you moved to a new clinic or changed your email account?

Let us know by emailing

illinoisots@gmail.com





5K Road Race: supporting A Pet's Place & U of I's Wildlife Medical Clinic:

On October 25th, 2015 we put on our annual 5k Road Race for Animals. This is a philanthropy event which is run by Omega Tau Sigma, and all of our active members had a part in helping it come together. The event accumulated 110 people, and started at the veterinary school, running down Lincoln, St. Mary's Road, Fourth Street, and Windsor Road. Road Race is an excellent way for people in our community to raise money for two original University of Illinois Veterinary organizations, and get fit at the same time! This year's proceeds of \$2,526.00 was split equally between A Pet's Place, which provides a temporary home for the pets of domestic violence victims, and the U of I Wildlife Medical Clinic, which treats injured and orphaned wildlife. The two organizations run solely off of donations, and were extremely grateful for the sponsorship from our fraternity. Omega Tau Sigma's members organized to make sure this event ran smoothly, and were able to help many wildlife and domestic animals in the process.

- Maddy Erba, '17



Omega Tau Sigma hosts annual Road Race



Einstein's Bagels-Vet Tech Appreciation Day:

During Vet Tech Appreciation Week, OTS purchased bagels one morning for all the Vet Techs in the hospital to show our appreciation for their hard work and dedication to the field, which so often goes unnoticed. In short, they devoured everything!

-Mallory Sczygelski, '17



Team Pup N' Suds-Pet Wash Fundraiser:

Despite numerous setbacks, we were able to come together and hold our Summer and Fall Pet Wash. The remodeling of the Clinical Skills Learning Center left us without a facility to hold the fundraiser. Nevertheless, we were able to secure the anatomy lab for the Summer Wash, and Prairieland Feeds graciously hosted us for the Fall Wash. We had dozens of dedicated members volunteer for the events and were able to raise hundreds of dollars. Proceeds benefitted OTS and the Champaign County Humane Society.

-Andrew Lee, '17



Firemark Paintball Outing-Duck and Cover!

OTS hosted a day of paintballing together with ISCAVMA on October 3rd at FireMark Paintball to provide members of both clubs with some much-needed stress relief. With over 30 members attending, we had a great turnout! This event was a wonderful example of how OTS makes an effort to organize events that not only benefit the members of our chapter, but also other members of the vet med community. Everyone left FireMark paintball with a smile on their faces which was the ultimate goal of the event. There will likely be another paintball day in the spring once the weather allows for it, so anyone who missed out in the fall will have another chance to come out and shoot some paint at their classmates!

-Mark Sadler, '18



OTS Theta Chapter has three main focuses: Philanthropy, Academics, and Social Events.



Community Service through Pet Visitations:

Every month Omega Tau Sigma Theta Chapter hosts Pet Visitations at Clark-Lindsey Retirement Village & Nursing Home. This is a regularly scheduled philanthropy event where we invite members of Omega Tau Sigma as well as other students and staff on campus to join us with their pets. It is a very rewarding experience sharing these moments with people who do not otherwise have the opportunity to interact with animals. The looks in their eyes and the smiles on their faces are worth a thousand words. Typically we have between 10-20 students and 8-15 pets join us. We begin the night in the lounge area outside the main dining room to attract those in the retirement village as they are coming from dinner. Later, we move over to the assisted living and rehabilitation side of the facility to ensure those who are not mobile have the opportunity to interact with the pets as well. A few residents greatly welcome a wagging tail into their room while others prefer to snuggle up with a cat in their lap. The relationship we have established with Clark-Lindsey is a very special one. Residents and staff alike look forward to our visits each month and have been so kind to make our pets gifts to take home. Cats have been lucky enough to go home with homemade catnip toys, and recently the residents crafted blankets for the dogs. We receive so much joy sharing our love for our pets with these people and listening to their stories about the impact their own pets have made over the years. Last semester we were contacted by Illini Heritage Rehab & Health Care, another assisted living facility in Champaign-Urbana. We held our first pet visitation towards the end of the year, and it was very well received. The turnout was on the lower end of attendance with about 10 people and 8 pets due to the smaller-sized facility. We hope to continue to provide such interactions regularly with those we are so lucky to have connected with so we can continue to spread our passion for this field and love for our pets on behalf of Omega Tau Sigma.

-Brittany Willeford, '18



OTS Theta Chapter has three main focuses: Philanthropy, Academics, and Social Events.



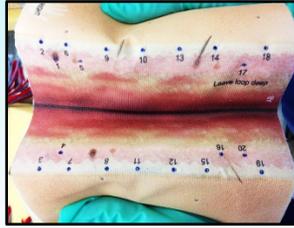
Paying it forward through anatomy and histology reviews, shared study guides and practice tests:

Theta Chapter's Education Committee has been helping out new and old members by planning practice anatomy practicals and various wet labs including venipuncture and suture labs. We take pride in working together to hone in on the skills that will not only help us get through crucial moments of vet school, but also skills that we will keep with us throughout our careers. The level of involvement in the education events shows just how dedicated our members are to continue learning and growing together.

-Miriah Wilson, '18



2013 Alumnus Dr. Dayle Dillon provided a clinical skills lab for first and second years.



Construction of the new and improved "Vet Star":



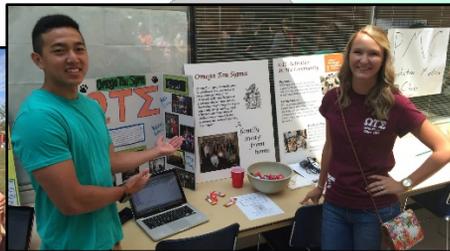
Who's in the side panel pictures? OTS members and their pets of course!



Passing on the education-the key to better grades, less stress, and improved OTS membership:

The OTS Education Committee has been busy this year! We held a suturing wet lab in late August where students were able to practice their techniques and patterns on fresh tissue. This was extremely beneficial to students as third years were about to begin their Junior Surgery courses. The second years got the opportunity to practice skills they learned in 601 and the first years were taught suturing anew due to having 602 lectures before 601 clinics. In October, we held a cauterization and venipuncture wet lab led by Dr. Dillon, an alumna that is currently working at Sports Vet in Savoy. She was able to help students build clinical skills required by the curriculum but also shed some light on the skills needed and modified for everyday practice in the real world. Our big OSCE review will be taking place in February. Each third year will be responsible for an OSCE station and will teach the necessary skills to pass that station to the second years. This is an extremely beneficial review for both our second years and the third years who will also be taking an OSCE exam in March.

-Lauren Novak, '17



Other OTS events throughout the fall semester:

- Welcome Back BBQ
- Pumpkin Carving
- Pet Pictures with Santa
- Beer Olympics Tournament
- Vet School/Law School Tailgate
- Internal Relations Birthday Gifts
- Alumni Call-A-Thon
- Around the World Party
- Movie Night
- College Blood Drive



Annual Executive Board Report: 2015

President's Update

I am happy to report that we had 38 new members and a return rate of 96% of the second years since we changed the image of the Chapter and provide more benefits to its members.

During the past year, we have focused on providing educational benefits to our members. We have two co-leaders that run the Educational Committee, one that is dedicated to providing an Anatomy & Histology Review Sessions before each exam to the first years and one that is responsible for creating Wet Labs and Clinical Skills Review Sessions for all members. These educational opportunities have become a big hit among new pledges and active members alike and are a major draw to join the club. This academic year, we have held a Junior Surgery Preparation Wet Lab for third years, Suturing Wet Lab on live tissue for active members, and there is more to come. We are looking forward to our very first "OTS Wellness Week" in January. We will have a Physical Therapist come to talk about the proper way to sit in our seats and give us mini exercises we can do between lectures, a motivational speaker at our Chapter Meeting, yoga and free 10-minute massages for select members. We care about the mental and physical health of our members, so we are very excited about this event!

Due to the increased membership and educational benefits, we have implemented a mandatory Chapter Meetings and a Point System. It is the first year we have been able to place expectations on the members of the Theta Chapter. We hope the Point System will guide who we chose for educational and scholarship opportunities. Also, it allows us to keep members involved throughout the whole year.

So far, all of our changes have been working out incredibly well and we will continue to make progress in our fraternity's success. Our Executive board has stepped up and is extremely active. They have taken charge in their respected areas and really prospered this year. With my great executive board, I am confident Omega Tau Sigma will continue to grow and become a leader for excellence within the school and the community.

-Mallory Sczygelski, '17

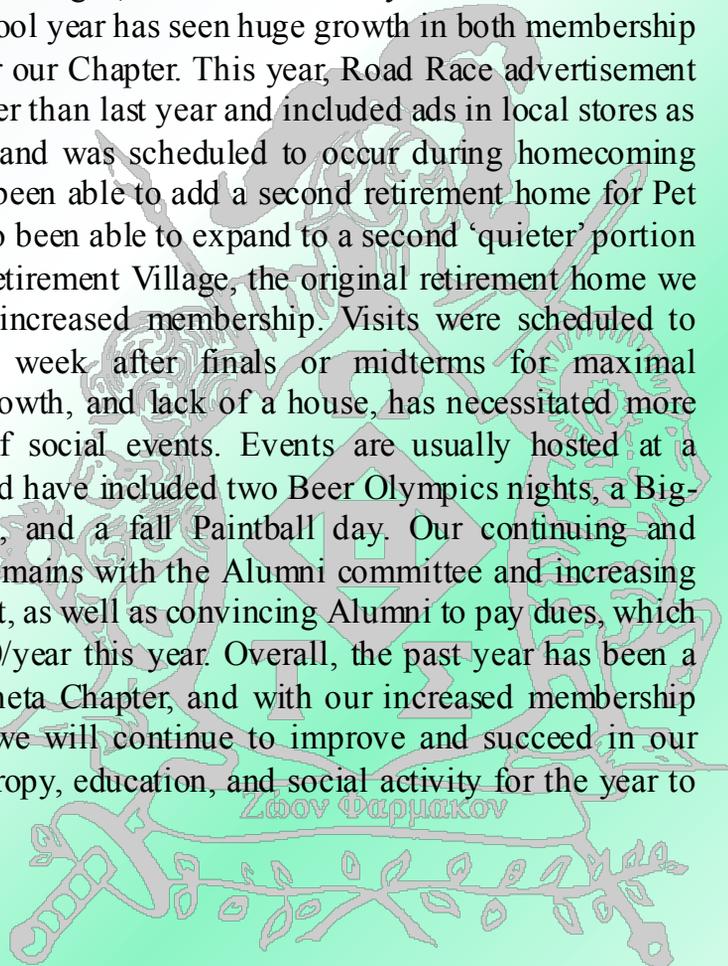


Vice-President's Update

Across committees, we have continued to implement educational opportunities for our members including exam reviews, clinical skills reviews, wet labs, adding updated study guides to our "note banks" for underclassmen, and providing externships with our Alumni to Fourth Years. The Educational Committee has expanded documents available to all students, and this is the number one drawing factor for increasing recruitment. It has also re-shaped our image within the college over the past two/three years. The Pet Wash Committee has raised over \$1,500.00 despite school construction. We have not had access to the school's Clinical Skills Learning Center where all Pet Washes were previously held. Our philanthropy work continues through monetary donations from our Road Race earnings. Other philanthropic events include Boy Scout Day, Pet Visitations, Pictures with Santa, Open House, Pre-Veterinary Q & A sessions, but there is definitely room for improvement. We are working on collaboration with the Illinois Veterinary Student Outreach Program for their larger events as well. The Social Committee puts together our annual events, such as White Carnation (which proceeded despite a blizzard), Around the World party, Poker Night, and a Paintball day.

This 2015-2016 school year has seen huge growth in both membership and involvement for our Chapter. This year, Road Race advertisement began a month earlier than last year and included ads in local stores as well public media, and was scheduled to occur during homecoming weekend. We have been able to add a second retirement home for Pet Visits, and have also been able to expand to a second 'quieter' portion of Clark Lindsey Retirement Village, the original retirement home we worked with from increased membership. Visits were scheduled to coincide with the week after finals or midterms for maximal attendance. Club growth, and lack of a house, has necessitated more defined planning of social events. Events are usually hosted at a members' house, and have included two Beer Olympics nights, a Big-Sib/Little-Sib night, and a fall Paintball day. Our continuing and biggest challenge remains with the Alumni committee and increasing Alumni involvement, as well as convincing Alumni to pay dues, which were raised to \$100/year this year. Overall, the past year has been a huge success for Theta Chapter, and with our increased membership and defined goals we will continue to improve and succeed in our focuses on philanthropy, education, and social activity for the year to come.

-Joe Cacioppo, '18



Treasurer's Update

This year has been a great financially for OTS Theta Chapter. As a result of selling our house in 2014, the alumni club have generously decided to allocate a portion of the funds from that sale to us each year. This money has been used to cover the travel costs for members that attended Grand Council, support various educational wet labs for members, and provide funding for 4th year externships. Our fall and Open House clothing sales brought in over \$9,000.00. This combined with some smaller fund raising events and our 116 dues paying members have helped us become much stronger financially. Not only have we been able to raise money for our club, but our fund raising efforts have also allowed us to donate more than ever to organizations in our community. Our fall pet wash raised over \$400 for our local Humane Society while our annual Road Race brought in over \$2,000.00 to share between the Wildlife Medical Clinic and A Pet's Place. As our chapter continues to grow, we hope to be able to use our funds to offer even more opportunities to help our members become both successful in the classroom and in their future career goals as well as to further help our community.

-Kara Falvey, '17



Pledge Master's Update

Theta chapter is very happy to report another successful recruitment with 43 newly initiated members of Omega Tau Sigma! Throughout the fall semester, many new members showed great leadership by volunteering to become chair members on various committees within the Chapter, such as our Road Race Committee that hosted our annual 5K benefiting our wildlife clinic and an organization that supports pets from abused families on October 18th. We also had great new member representation at OTS events, including our Pet Wash fall fundraiser and a tailgates with the University Of Illinois School Of Law. Outside of just club activities, Theta chapter was fortunate to help co-sponsor the University of Illinois Welcome Back BBQ at the beginning of Fall semester, an event that encourages the co-mingling of faculty, staff, and students; Omega Tau Sigma's presence in and generation of the success for that event (which had record turn-out when compared to recent years) shed a very positive light on the chapter. We are excited to see what new and familiar OTS Theta Chapter members will bring to Spring Semester!

-Brooke Murphy Smith, '17



Secretary's Update

Our membership numbers have been steadily increasing with the number coming from the incoming class growing each year. We have found success using Google Drive to share important documents with our members, and Google Sheets has been very useful to assist in signing up for events and the pot lucks we have at all of our meetings. Overall, we have had a pretty successful year achieving the goals we set, planning and seeing through novel events, and providing the best experience possible for our chapter.

-Brittany Willeford, '18

Historian's Update

This year's growth in our Theta chapter has been significant resulting in the further development of our social and philanthropic events. It is my job to capture these events through photography. I take pictures at most of our events, like our monthly Pet Visits, to demonstrate to our community what OTS is all about. After all, a picture is worth a thousand words. All of these pictures also help our members to relive and hold onto the memories that we have created together. In addition to taking pictures, I have the privilege of awarding a member or members every month who has/have been nominated by our members with a small gift to thank them for "Kicking Butt" and doing something outstanding in our Chapter over the past month. It's nice when every once in a while you get some group recognition that you deserve for your hard work, dedication, and/or participation in events. This year, we have also decided to have a Composite made of all our members in 2015-2016. I was in charge of taking everyone's pictures and organizing the final product. Overall, I have enjoyed my duties as Historian and look forward to seeing all of the memories that future Historians will continue to capture.

-Brittany Farron, '17

Webmaster's Update

So far this year the website has been the subject of a few modifications. While the main points, such as monthly meeting minutes, Road Race updates, and pictures have been maintained as usual on the website, a few changes have been made. The main page of the website received a face lift with the design of a new emblem made specifically for Theta Chapter. More frequent pictures have been added from every major event, including Pet Wash, Pet Visits, Road Race, and Grand Council. We are also currently in the process of collecting OTS alumni information so that it can be incorporated into the website. Keep an eye out for more updates on the website as the year goes on...!

-Mark Sadler, '18



Philanthropy Chair's Update

Theta Chapter at Illinois provides visits to Clark-Lindsey Retirement Village & Nursing Home bringing comfort to its residents that had to leave their pets behind. Members (and even non-members) at the University of Illinois bring these retirees joy on a monthly basis. While there are always dogs and cats present, we have had small mammals attend also. Popularity of the Pet Visits has spread in Clark-Lindsay, and we get an ever increasing amount of retirees, who can't leave their beds, request private visits in their rooms. Semi-annual Pet Washes are another community program we organize. The community is invited to bring their pets for services such as washing and conditioning, nail trimming, ear cleaning, and anal gland expression. These events are always fun and a great way to reach out to the community. It also provides us the opportunity to help the underclassman improve their basic grooming and retraining skills, while the 4th years often take the time to educate clients on their pets' appearance and health. Money raised from these pet washes goes to the Champaign County Humane Society. On October 25th, put on our 2nd annual 5k Road Race for Animals. This year 110 people came out to run with us. We donated the \$2,526.00 of proceeds to A Pet's Place, which provides a temporary home for the pets of domestic violence victims, and the U of I Wildlife Medical Clinic, which treats injured and orphaned wildlife.

Social Chair's Update

The social events Theta Chapter has been holding have been better than ever! Mixer events have been very popular with the vet students, law student and MBA students. Most recent was a joint tailgate between OTS and the Law Students, allowing for great networking between our organizations, and social enrichment of our members. All members in attendance had a blast and the Law Students are very eager to schedule future events with our organization, brainstorming beer Olympics and/or Paintballing. We've been trying to keep with the holiday theme as well. We participated in apple picking at Curtis Apple Orchard in late August, and continued the "Friendsgiving" event the week before Thanksgiving break to celebrate the holiday with our Oatie family. Again, this year we set the date for the annual Coverall Bar Crawl to occur January 22nd, where all classes were able to attend! The Around the World party for pledges was held December 4th and this year the theme was different Disney films. Our aim for social events the rest of this year is to continue to encourage networking between classes, building of support systems and strong friendships between members, and improve the social enrichment and method of de-stress for our members during the challenging time in their lives called Vet School.



Maddy Erba, '17



Katie Duda, '18

Omega Tau Sigma

Members 2015-2016



Rory Aringo Sherri Field-Gard Cat Foreman Emily Hall Katie Leister Janina Luciano



James Kamia Jesse Nourie Michelle Piccione Danielle Rahe



Kayley Rodriguez Natalie Rupp

Class of 2016



Shelby Adcock Alyssa Baratta Nicole Bell Maddy Erba Kara Falvey Brittany Farron Morgan Hill Kati Jacobs



Emma Johnson Andrew Lee Sarah Maggett Nick Mallory Lauren Novak Laura Pereira Amanda Radek Mallory Sczygelski



Sam Seemann Julia Soeka Kylee Walter Nicole Wetstein

Class of 2017



Lamiae Al-Basha Hilary Antosh Molly Berry Kayla Boers Joe Cacioppo Jen Conophy Brittany Cortina Katie Duda



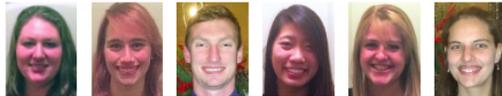
Amy Fietelson Alec Frits Jessica Gaik Jamie Heavey Amanda Johnson Dana Jordan Josina Kasper Kathleen Keene



Frank Kenny Dorothy Kowalczyk Krissy Kozak Leah Kruokman Angela Krzmarzick Kayte LaFollett Eric Ledesma Leah Loehr



Nicole Long Allyn Meyer Kaleigh Morrison Brooke Murphy-Smith Amanda Pike Jeremy Rayl Stephanie Reed Cindy Roberg



Lindsay Rothrock Alex Ruppe Mark Sadler Nora Szeto Chandler Todd Ashley Vegter



Alex Webber Brittany Willford Miriah Wilson

Class of 2018



Jordan Belden Brandi Burton Cassidy Cassello Anamaria Cruz Jon Cudiamat Jaimee Goldish Rachel Hallman Jeff Hess



Jimmy Holtschlag Samantha Johnson Nicholas Lindstrand Hannah Lynaugh Jacob Magg Ashley Malawy Travis Mansur Michael McCallion



Brianna McConnell Kelly Merchant Brittany Metzger Laura Molinet Jonathan Powers Emily Rehm Abby Reising Annie Ryan



Cassie Sauffley Seely Sayre Jeneen Schier Brittany Stanton Darcy Stephenson Stephanie Suchy



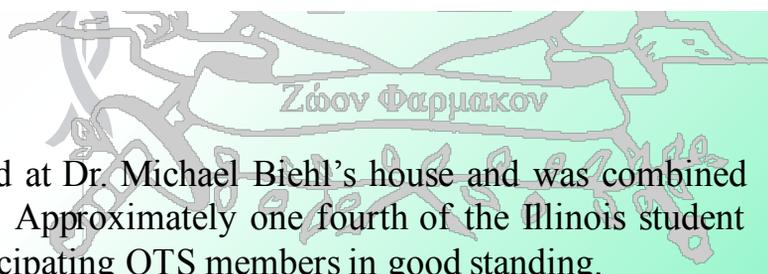
Rena Sufin Morgan Temple Rachel Vandermyle Gina Vecere Jessica Weirich



Sam Weisdorf Rachel Ziesmann

Class of 2019

OTS
College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Illinois



The 2015 Initiation Ceremony was held at Dr. Michael Biehl's house and was combined with a 'Friendsgiving' pot luck dinner. Approximately one fourth of the Illinois student body is now composed of actively participating OTS members in good standing.