

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Class of '74 Reunion

**Friday, October 31**  
Maggianno's Perimeter  
Dunwoody, Ga.

### 2014 Homecoming (open to all alumni)

**Saturday, November 1**  
Tailgate, Chapter House

Check [www.gtztbt.org](http://www.gtztbt.org) for  
RSVP details.

## IN MEMORY

We have recently learned of  
the death of ...

### Barry Sugerman '60

Xi Chapter mourns his passing  
and extends condolences to  
his families and friends.

## ALUMNI BOARD

*President and Chapter Advisor*  
**Doug Bodner '87**

*Treasurer*  
**Nigel King '10**

*Secretary & Asst. Chapter Advisor*  
**Richard Threlkeld '12**

*Asst. Chapter Advisor*  
**Scott Saffran (Tufts) '89**

*Board Member*  
**Logan Sandor '13**

## XI ON THE WEB

*Alumni Web Site*  
[www.gtztbt.org](http://www.gtztbt.org)

*Facebook Page*  
[facebook.com/gtztbt](https://facebook.com/gtztbt)

[www.gtztbt.org](http://www.gtztbt.org)



ΦΞΠ • 1916

# Xi-Lights



ZBT • 1970

Xi Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity

October 2014

Georgia Tech • Atlanta, Ga.

## ALUMNI REPORT

### This is Our Year to Make it Great Again!

### Recruitment Results, House Improvements, New Board Members and Alumni Reunions All Mark the Return to Our Purpose

By Doug Bodner '87

I'm happy to report on our progress so far in the new academic year. The trustee corporation continues to be financially successful with the ability to engage in appropriate repair, replacement and maintenance operations for our property. We have several strategic initiatives, and I'll elaborate on each below.

#### Developing our undergraduate chapter.

Our advisor team spent significant effort with the undergraduates over the summer to institute a summer recruitment process. We can report success from this effort, with some new members recruited from that process. However, we still face challenges with membership levels. This will be a critical year in terms of whether the chapter will remain on campus. We've also engaged advisors to assist with membership retention. We must note that our undergraduates are making us proud with their academic, service, philanthropy and career activities.

**Keeping our facilities competitive.** We've made a major effort in this area since our last report. While we have projects outstanding, our efforts have resulted in much-needed improvements to the house (see Facilities Report on page 2).

**Engaging our alumni.** The Class of '74 has announced its reunion plans for this Homecoming, and we are pleased that we have been able to provide support to the organizers of this great event. Almost 50 alumni brothers will be involved from '74 and the adjacent classes. This builds on a tradition of reunions that spans classes from the 1950s to the 1990s. We plan to instill this regard for lifetime brotherhood in our recent graduates and current undergraduates.

**Rebuilding our alumni board.** As you know, we transitioned from a board-oriented trustee organization to a responsibility-oriented one. **Nigel King '10** has stepped up to be our new alumni treasurer, and **Richard Threlkeld '12** is our new secretary. Richard will be working with our undergraduates to enhance the brotherhood experience and improve retention. The whole alumni board will be working with the chapter on recruitment. We still need alumni who will head up facilities management and alumni relations.

**Celebrating our heritage.** We have previously discussed heritage initiatives, such as memorabilia displays. These are on hold until we have sufficient alumni volunteer resources to execute our other missions.

As you have read, we need your participation to keep our program going strong. Fill a spot on the board, plan your own reunion or make a gift to our Annual Fund. And be sure to stay updated with the chapter through our Facebook page and on our website (see information in left-hand column.) We'll see you at Homecoming!

### Come Back to Xi Chapter for Homecoming on Nov. 1!

Even though kickoff time is TBA, please make plans to come by the house before the game and all other home games for our tailgates. Note: Lawn parking is available only to those who have given to our Annual Fund. To make a gift, go to [www.gtztbt.org](http://www.gtztbt.org).



## FACILITIES REPORT

### Our House is a Very, Very, Very Fine House

#### Renovations, Upgrades and Repairs Completed; More Planned Pending Alumni Support

Summer was a busy time for facility repairs and upgrades. We already reported on the



*New shower room installation.*

sodding and landscape work done in the front lawn. This work was extended with additional sod and landscaping since our last issue.

In preparation for the fall

semester, the trustees undertook the following additional projects:

- The upstairs shower room was renovated with a new waterproofing system, new tile, and new fixtures. The old shower served us well for 20 years, but it deteriorated to the point of needing replacement. The new waterproofing system extends six feet from the floor, instead of the previous 1.5 feet.
- Ceiling tiles and lighting systems were replaced in the foyer, living room and dining room.
- The living room carpet was replaced.
- The dryer vent system was replaced.

- Kitchen equipment was tested, repaired and readied for fall meal plan.

Upcoming projects include chapter room refurbishment, new living room furniture, and roof replacement/refurbishment. The latter is a necessity. The other two projects will depend on chapter recruitment results and alumni support.

As a follow-up to our previous report on the parking area between our house and Kappa Sigma, Georgia Tech has deferred taking control of this plot of land until next fall. Their plan is to convert the area to a permit-only parking lot. However, their parking office does not have budget resources this year to do the conversion.

## CHAPTER REPORT

### Stronger Together Than We Are Apart

#### Undergrads Deliver Solid Recruitment Performance

Xi Chapter continues to work toward our objectives of a quality undergraduate membership experience supported by recruitment and retention along with a focus on academics, philanthropy and athletics.

We had an active summer recruitment season, with significant efforts to reach out to incoming students. These were rewarded with an enthusiastic new brother class. We are looking to expand our new brother class with additional recruitment this fall and spring. Christian Madsen is leading these efforts.

New brother education is underway with the leadership of Erik Brewer and Nima Madani. New brothers are learning time management and other success-oriented skills, in addition to the traditional history and workings of the fraternity. Big brothers have been selected, and they are working to become good mentors to our newest members.

Brothers Mark Stathos and Matt Woods were recognized with scholarships from the trustees for most outstanding and most improved academic performance last spring, respectively. Internal Affairs Committee and Academic Chair Nashwin Bharwani continues to monitor the performance of individual

brothers and provide help when needed. Our goal is that each brother is successful in achieving our minimum 2.75 GPA.

Our philanthropy and service schedule is quite full this semester. Almost every week, one or more of Tech's sororities have come to us to participate in one of their events. The brothers are more than enthusiastic to do so. In September, we were proud to support the family of alumnus **Pepe Fundora '10** and their restaurant Casa Nuova in their annual Purple Pansies Gala to support pancreatic cancer research, with brothers providing set-up and clean-up for this event. We are planning a Build-a-Bear event where we build teddy bears for presentation to children at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Finally, we are partnering with the campus Hillel for other volunteer opportunities.

We have several other noteworthy activities to report. First, we engaged a number of recent alumni for a career and resume workshop on

the eve of Georgia Tech's fall career fair. We thank the following alumni for engaging with the undergraduates on general career tips and individual help with resumes — **Joshua Styles '11**, **Andrew Rodrigues '09**, **Chandler Hill '13**, **Taylor Walsh '13** and **Ty Harmon '14**.

Finally, we celebrated Family Weekend with a number of families of current brothers stopping by the house for our reception on Saturday, Sept. 13, before the game against Georgia Southern. Increasingly, parents are involved in the decisions made by their sons as to fraternity membership, so we were happy to show them the value provided by ZBT.



*Undergraduates celebrate following an initiation.*

## Taking Motion Pictures to the World

*Brother Andrew Cripps '81 Encourages Actives to Chase Their Dreams*

IMAX, Paramount, Dreamworks, Marvel ... His resumé reads like something out of a movie. That's because movies and entertainment are his life.

Meet Brother

**Andrew Cripps '81**, the President of IMAX Europe, Middle East and Africa. An executive whose experiences have taken him all over the world, Andrew looks back to the days when taking on responsibilities at ZBT was a turning point for him.

**How did you end up in the entertainment industry after graduation?**

After graduation, I went to work at Johnson & Johnson, selling surgical instruments in Boston and then Kansas City. Having grown up in Japan and speaking fluent Japanese, I was contacted by a friend about a job in entertainment in Japan. I took a job with a small British film company and set up a distribution office for their films and (in those days) videocassettes. I did that for two years and was recruited in Japan to work for UIP — a joint venture of Paramount, Universal and MGM/UA.

**You spent 25 years with Paramount Pictures. What roles did you hold there?**

I started with UIP (Paramount) as the assistant to the general manager in Japan. I had a number of roles after that, including sales manager for SE Asia based in Hong Kong, VP of sales and distribution when I was moved to London and EVP of international sales. In 1999, I was made president and COO. When Paramount and Universal split the company up to set up their own companies, I ended up with Paramount as president of Paramount Pictures International based in London, responsible for the marketing and distribution of all Paramount, Dreamworks, Dreamworks Animation and Marvel films outside of North America. During my five years running at Paramount International, our films grossed over \$10 billion.

**Tell us more about your current role with IMAX.** At IMAX, I am president for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. My job is to expand the number of IMAX theaters in the region, as well as to ensure we have the right films to play in them. It has gone well, and we are adding 30-40 theaters in the region every year.

**Any cool stories about or run-ins with celebrities you'd like to share?**

I have been very fortunate to work in the film industry and have encountered many interesting and talented people. The ones who have had the biggest impact on my life have probably been Jeffrey Katzenberg who founded Dreamworks with Steven Spielberg, and I have worked closely with filmmakers such as JJ Abrams (presently shooting Star Wars), Michael Bay (Transformers) and the producers of the James Bond films. Just today, I met Michael Jordan at the Ryder Cup in the NBC hospitality suite which was very cool.

**How did the skills you developed at ZBT help you in your career success?**

I think there were a number of skills that I learned at ZBT that have helped me in later life. Firstly, learning to live and work with a group of brothers who would become lifelong friends and confidants. Secondly, I was the treasurer at ZBT while I was there which instilled a great degree of responsibility in me, which arguably at that stage in my life I desperately needed. And, of course, learning responsibility for yourself and others is an important aspect of growing up.

**What is your best memory from your ZBT days?** My best memory of my fraternity days is the sports. We had a great group of talented individuals who excelled in softball, basketball, football and all other intramural sports. While ZBT was and still is a small frat, we overperformed when it came to sports ... a great source of pride.

**In what ways do you honor your lifelong commitment to ZBT in your alumni years?** In my alumni years, I have tried to stay in contact with the fraternity. Living overseas for many years has meant that I have been unable to

participate in regular alumni activities or homecomings, but I have tried to attend when I can and have always donated as generously as possible.

**Why would you encourage other brothers to renew their connections in their alumni years, no matter where they are in the world?**

It is very easy to lose contact with the fraternity or your brothers. However, social media being what it is today means that with a little effort, one can stay connected and renew those lifelong bonds and relationships. There is so much that people with experience can give to ZBT, and I would encourage everyone to participate where possible. For the past two years, I have been on the board of the Scheller College of Business which gets me back to the Georgia Tech campus at least twice per year. This allows me to renew acquaintances and friendships.

**If you could reunite with one brother this year, who would it be and why?**

I have been very lucky in that I have been able to keep in contact with many of my closest fraternity brothers. Social media means that most people have been tracked down and contacted. However, the one brother I would love to contact and get back in touch with is **Mike Donahue '82** who was from Atlanta and went to school from 1977-81.

**What is your advice for the current brothers of ZBT as they prepare to launch their careers after graduation?**

The best advice I can give to brothers preparing themselves for the real world is to work hard today to prepare themselves for tomorrow. College at Georgia Tech was a fantastic experience and one that I will always treasure. However, upon graduating, I did not feel that I was fully prepared for the working world and environment. Get out there and get some experience that you can use to further your career. Figure out what you are interested in and don't let anything stand in your way of achieving your goals. Rewards come to those who most actively chase them!



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- *This Is Our Year to Make It Great ... Again!*
- *Which Alum Is Taking Motion Pictures to the World?*

**ALUMNI UPDATES**

**Jeffrey M. Goodman '71**

(2052 Paran Ct., Marietta, GA 30062; jeffgoodmanslc@aol.com) My daughter, Emily, just moved to Nashville, Tenn. She got a job as the marketing manager for Mellow Mushroom. Hope to see everyone on Homecoming weekend.

**David S. Zweighaft '84**

(68-61 Yellowstone Blvd., Apt. 404, Forest Hills, NY 11375; dzweighaft@dszforensic.com) This will be a busy fall for the Zweighaft family. I will be a presenter at several forensic accounting conferences, discussing the various legal/regulatory, cultural and economic factors that impact our efforts to prevent, deter and detect fraud in public and private companies. My wife recently won a citation of merit

for her work in lighting design at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston and is attending the Illuminating Engineering Society annual conference. My older son completed his degree in aviation management, making the Dean's List two years in a row; he just started with Jet Blue. Not to be outdone by any of us, my younger son is applying to the Air Force! On an historic note, I am looking to reconnect with Frater **Rob Friedman '79** in the hope that he will return the hammer he borrowed from me in 1979.

**Richard C. Threlkeld '12**

(621 Scott St., Hinesville, GA 31313; rthrelkeld3@gmail.com) Brother Richard Threlkeld qualifies his M4 rifle in a Level A Hazmat suit as part of his training at Fort

Stewart, Ga. Richard is currently a platoon leader of a dismounted reconnaissance and surveillance platoon.



**Welcome, New Brothers!**

- Joseph R. Cantrell – Columbus, Ga.
- Ian A. Moreno – Atlanta, Ga.
- Brady A. Roose – Cumming, Ga.
- Matthew B. Torrance – Atlanta, Ga.
- Kevin Wang – Arlington, Mass.
- You Hao "Leo" Zheng – Orlando, Fla.

**Undergraduate Officers**

- |                                         |                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| President<br>Andy Park                  | Rush Chairman<br>Christian Madsen               |
| Internal Vice President<br>Mark Stathos | Brotherhood Development Director<br>Erik Brewer |
| External Vice President<br>Nima Madani  | House Manager<br>Zak Mizell                     |
| Treasurer<br>Matt Woods                 | Social Chairman<br>Luke Greenway                |
| Secretary<br>Jason Provenzano           |                                                 |