

ALUMNI BOARD

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SPRING FOOTBALL

Yellow Jackets Back in Action April 21

Georgia Tech will conclude its spring practice with the annual spring game on Friday, April 21, at Bobby Dodd Stadium. Kickoff is scheduled for 7, and admission is free.

The Ramblin' Wreck is coming off a season in which it went 9-4 and beat Kentucky 33-18 in the TaxSlayer Bowl.

SPRING PICNIC

Newtown Park in John's Creek

April 22nd, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Open to all brothers and alumni, this event will consist of a cook-out along with full use of the park facilities for games of corn-hole and other pick-up sports.

The chapter executive board will be present to give a brief address of the chapter's activities and plans for the coming year.

www.gtztbt.org



ΦΠ • 1916

Xi Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity

Xi-Lights

April 2017



ZBT • 1970

Georgia Tech • Atlanta, Ga.

100TH ANNIVERSARY

Chapter Celebrates Century and Looks Forward to Next



Alumni enjoy their meals during the 100th celebration.

This past October, we celebrated one hundred years of Xi Chapter at Georgia Tech, 1916–2016. Brothers and alumni gathered from across the country the night before Homecoming at Gordon Biersch in Buckhead, where we rented out the restaurant to accommodate all the alumni and guests.

We were pleased to have representation from every decade starting with the 1950s up to the 2010s. The Class of '57 and alumni from the 1980s held reunions, so their decades were especially well-represented.

After dinner, chapter president **Christian Madsen '17** spoke to the group about the current undergraduate chapter and plans for the future. Afterward, a brother from each decade spoke, reflecting on the meaning of Phi Epsilon Pi and Zeta Beta Tau to him and his contemporaries. **Allan Klepper '57** represented the 1950s. **Bob Shulman '69** spoke for the 1960s. Then, **Howard Fleisig '72** reflected on the 1970s. **Dan Muller '85** addressed the 1980s. **Patrick McDougal '92** spoke about the 1990s. **Ben Deneweth '06** discussed the 2000s. Finally, **Mike Holcomb '12** provided thoughts on the 2010s. In conclusion, alumni president **Doug Bodner '87** reflected on the past hundred years of Xi Chapter, as well as the path forward for the next 100 years.

So what is our path forward? We have recently expanded our trustee board to address this question. We continue to build the undergraduate brotherhood. The past two years have seen successful recruitment efforts, with 17 last year and 13 this year thus far. We are heading in the right direction. We have a dedicated group of advisors who are working to improve the undergraduate experience through setting and meeting expectations in academics, recruitment, programming, and financial and budgeting practices, among other areas.

We continue to make improvements and upgrades to the chapter house property. Recent efforts include new dining room furniture and new stalls for the upstairs bathroom. Future potential improvements include a refurbished living room, improved electricals in the dining room, and landscaping of the side yard. Finally, we are working to make the Phi Ep and ZBT experience a true brotherhood for a lifetime through networking, events and communications. We thank you for your support this year and look forward to seeing you at one of our next events.

For photos from our Centennial and Homecoming events, check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/gtztbt.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Brother Walker Is Still Waiting For Grandkids

Brother Larry Walker '86 recently reached out to us and agreed to answer a few questions about his fraternity days. Read on to learn why Walker loves his ZBT brothers ... even Jerry.

What's new in your life?

LW: Nothing really new going on here. Ellen and I are still kickin' around Arizona just enjoying our blessings. Children are grown and working and doing well, but not producing any grandkids – flippin' millennials.

What are your favorite memories from ZBT?

LW: Ha! Too many to count. You know, oddly, I really enjoyed my pledge time. We had a blast! I can still sing most of those filthy songs and recite all that other crap we had to learn! Can't believe some of the stuff we did – yikes! And of course I met my wonderful bride, Ellen (Grant). (We started dating 34 years ago last month!) Least favorite memory is that repulsive ZBT cheer – it's stuck in the head too.

What brother(s) have most positively influenced your life? How/why?



Larry Walker is shown with his ZBT paddle in his Arizona home.

LW: Impossible to say! Each one shaped me in their own way and touched my heart. After looking over my paddle, I think “DBH” ranks at the top! (not!) What a great bunch of guys. ... Funny thing is, my ZBT brothers really helped make me a helluva (well, at least better than most) engineer!

In what ways did ZBT impact or shape your life? Why are you proud/glad to be a

member?

LW: The diversity of our brotherhood impressed me then and still. The fact that such a group of brilliant malcontents and misfits could function together has served me well throughout my misadventures. Just the fact of being a member of a fraternity is a novelty today. ZBT's uniqueness among fraternities at GT always did and still makes me proud!

Do you still keep in touch with any brothers? Who and how?

LW: Not really. I miss them all greatly, but I don't even do Facebook. (Ellen does.) Just too much life in my face to do life elsewhere. I don't have any hard feelings toward any of them and remember only the good stuff really. Even Jerry...

What has been the best part of the alumni experience for you?

LW: The fond memories and the great laughs that come back when you least expect it! Dang, we had a heck of a time!

If anyone finds their way out near southern Arizona, feel free to look us up.

UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER

Zebe Finds Strength to Come Out Thanks to His Brothers

Recently, **Brother Brady Roose '18** found the strength to have a challenging conversation with his parents. His brothers were his biggest cheerleaders.

“I recently came out to my parents as gay,” he says. “I am very grateful to ZBT for being so open and supportive. My brothers are the ones who helped me work up my confidence to this point.”

Many of his brothers, who have met Roose's parents, encouraged him to talk to them.

“The brothers who had met my parents assured me that they would be fine with it,” he says. “And they also were extremely happy to hear when I told them of my plans at chapter. But the biggest help was just their being consistently so accepting. I had taken my boyfriend to many date nights, including the one on February 25. I am able to talk about my relationship adventures just as freely as any other brother, and I have never seen strange looks. This space to just build up my confidence in myself was the biggest help.”

According to Roose, coming out is never an easy process. But his brothers have always made him feel welcomed.

“It's always hard to come out to anyone,” he says. “No matter what they are like, you are worried they will see you differently because of it. But it sure was reassuring that our chapter had openly gay alumni, and it helped when none of my brothers cared either way.”

“I would say that the one personality trait that all of us at ZBT share is how we are accepting of other's interests and lifestyles,” Roose adds. “This



Brady Roose (front row, first on left) is shown with a group of his ZBT brothers.

With the help of his brothers, Brady recently came out to his parents.

is how we can be so diverse and yet mesh so well. It is also the biggest reason I'm so proud to be a Zebe.”

The national office of Zeta Beta Tau is also accepting of gay brothers.

“Their wording in their policies shows inclusion of the LGBT community without making it a special case,” says Roose, who's going to complete Georgia Tech's BS/MS graduate school program. “Being gay doesn't affect my stance as a brother; I'm just like everyone else.”

So how did the conversation with his parents go? According to Roose, it went well.

“They weren't itching with questions, but were just generally accepting,” he says. “I had my birthday dinner with both my family and boyfriend present. It was nice.”

UNDERGRADUATES

New Brothers Explain Why They Wanted to Be Part of ZBT

“Another Zebe has rung the bell!” This is the first thing we all heard immediately after accepting our bids and becoming brothers of ZBT by ringing that old brass bell. We all came from different backgrounds and upbringings, but from that point forward, it didn’t matter. We were brothers, no matter what the reason was for accepting our bids. Along those lines, we decided to ask some of our new brothers from the spring 2017 rush class what their motivations were for choosing to ring the bell. Their responses ranged from wanting to solidify the friendships they’d made with brothers, to more practical ideas about having a more well-rounded collegiate experience.

Matt Krajewski, an Aerospace Engineering major from Connecticut, for instance, “really liked the atmosphere of ZBT.” He had first encountered the chapter earlier in the fall semester, and had fun getting to know the brothers, going so far as to say that he “simply enjoyed every moment that I was here.” Matt joined with the intention of making his college experience a fun and memorable one, ending his explanation by adding, “I know that my college experience will forever be enriched with the moments I will share and cherish with my newfound brothers.”

Mechanical Engineering major Seth Bryan explained that he rang “because I had not been very active at GT outside of classes,” and joined ZBT because he felt the brotherhood offered him opportunities to get that well-rounded experience. Seth Bryan, also an ME student, offered a similar sentiment: “I wanted to be held accountable and to be challenged to better myself for a cause.”

Ultimately, we all joined ZBT because something about the social experience appealed to us. Between ZBT’s commitment to philanthropy on and off campus, the fun of helping host awesome mixers and parties, and just getting to experience college with the support and camaraderie of our brothers, fraternity life has something to offer us all.

UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER

Actives Have a Busy Spring Semester

Following their successful eight-man rush class and initiation this past January, the 30 brothers of Georgia Tech Xi Chapter have been hard at work to make the most of the spring semester through various social activities, involvement in philanthropic events, and of course on-going recruitment efforts to grow the brotherhood.

On the social front, the brothers held a “brotherhood lock-in” at the house towards the end of February, which included a movie night and a “campfire” in the barbecue pit behind the house as part of efforts to promote the bond of brotherhood. That next day, the chapter held a social event/date night at Dave and Busters. Other events included the chapter’s semesterly brotherhood retreat in South Carolina in mid-March to start off GT’s spring break, as well as the annual ZBTahiti-themed Spring party in April. Some of the brothers will also be participating in intramural 3v3 basketball; the first game was held March 7.

On the philanthropic front, the chapter attended Dance Marathon on March 4 in



The “Get on the Ball” philanthropic project began in early March.

partnership with the “Georgia Tech For The Kids” organization to benefit Children’s Miracle Network. With the brotherhood bringing a giant beach ball with them, this event also served as a kick-off for the annual ZBT “Get On The

Ball” fundraising-signature drive, as well as for Children’s Miracle Network/Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. Additionally, the brotherhood will be participating in Georgia Tech’s annual Tech Beautification Day, a campus-wide effort to give back to the Institute through a day of landscaping and cleanup activities.

Of course, rush is always an on-going effort year-round. To that end, the chapter plans to host a few informal events throughout the semester to get to know potential new members, such as pick-up basketball tournaments at the house, poker nights, and, as the weather begins to warm a bit, cookouts.

No matter what the remainder of the term holds, the alumni wish the undergraduates of Xi Chapter the best for a safe, happy, and productive semester of continued brotherhood.

100TH ANNIVERSARY



Brothers from every decade starting with the 1950s spoke during the 100th celebration.

Brother Bob Wellins '57 and his wife **Cindy** take in the festivities during the 100th celebration.

Brother Marvin Gechman '57 and undergraduate **Brother Alex Teichner** enjoy time together during the 100th celebration.



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In This Issue of Xi Lights...

- Xi Chapter celebrates its 100th birthday
- Brady Roose has the support of his brothers
- Brother Walker is still waiting for grandkids

ALUMNI PROFILE

Brother Patel Stays Connected With ZBT Brothers

Brother Chuck Patel '93 still loves ZBT and the Ramblin' Wreck. Find out with whom he goes to GT football and basketball games by reading below.

What are your favorite memories from ZBT?

CP: Band Parties, RUSH, Intramurals, charity events and all the great social events.

What brother(s) have most positively influenced your life? How/why?

CP: I can't say one particular brother



Chuck Patel

influenced my life. I would like to credit Bryan Anulies as my FASET leader who recruited me to ZBT. The whole experience of living in the house with great people allowed me to learn from others so that I can focus on success in the future.

In what ways did ZBT impact or shape your life? Why are you proud/glad to be a member?

CP: ZBT allowed me to reset my life when I left

home to come to GT. I still stay in touch with many of my Brothers in the local ATL area.

Who do you keep in touch with?

CP: I stay in touch with several. **Les Barchard**, **Dave Pritchett** and **Jin Kwon** – we all have GT BB tickets together as well as GT Football. I have lunch on a regular basis with **Bryan Anulies** and stay in touch with **Carl Carlsson** in Texas to catch up on the latest stories about cats all over the world.

What has been the best part of the alumni experience for you?

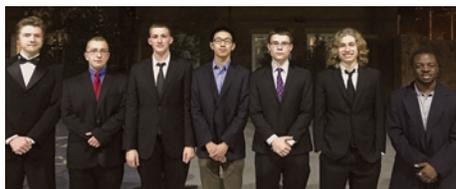
CP: Seeing that all my brothers are doing well in life with their careers and families.

UNDERGRADUATES

Xi Chapter Welcomes a Strong Class of Brothers

Spring has sprung at Georgia Tech, meaning new classes and new brothers for ZBT Xi Chapter. The brothers had a particularly successful spring 2017 rush class, recruiting eight new brothers – a recent record for the traditionally slower spring rush season.

The brothers entertained potential new members by hosting cookouts, Korean-style barbecues, pickup basketball games, and even setting up an HTC Vive Virtual Reality system. Adhering to the notion that recruitment is year-round, the chapter additionally hopes to host more rush events throughout the semester, such as 3 v. 3 basketball tournaments and poker nights, which are great opportunities to get to know potential new brothers as well as fostering brotherhood amongst the chapter.



The 2017 spring class of new ZBT brothers.

When asked to comment on this semester's efforts, Recruitment Chairman Graeme Sharpe had the following to say, "The brothers were definitely more motivated, we did as much networking as possible within the (on-campus) organizations we're a part of to rush any potential new members."

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new undergraduate brothers: Dylan Avion, Buford, GA; Seth Bryan, Adel, GA; Justin Harrison, Buford, GA; Tyre Johnson-King, Atlanta, GA; Matt Krajewski, Simsbury, CT; Justin Richard, Saint Mary's, GA; Khoa Phan, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; and Connor Wood, Jackson, GA.

Congratulations to the chapter for a successful Spring Rush, and best of luck to you all in all your endeavors this semester!