

ALUMNI OFFICERS

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

**Treasurer &
Secretary**
Richard Threlkeld '12

**Programming
Advisor**
Andrew Rodrigues '09

Finance Advisor
Logan Sandor '13

BY THE NUMBERS

107

Years of Xi Chapter

\$14,000

Annual Fund Goal

\$1,405

Raised as of 12/17/23

3

Ways for YOU to Give

Log on to
www.gtzbtt.org and click on
Donate

Call
800-975-6699

Mail a check to our donation processing center.
Zeta Beta Tau
Georgia Institute of
Technology
Alumni Relations Processing
Center
P.O. Box 7007
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

www.gtzbtt.org



ΦΕΠ • 1916

Xi-Lights



ZBT • 1970

Xi Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity

December 2023

Georgia Tech • Atlanta, Ga.

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD

We are pleased to report on recent progress and matters pertaining to the chapter house.

As most of you know, the effort to cap the I-75/85 corridor and overlay streets connecting campus to east Midtown has been drastically scaled back. The original project would have taken our property, and we would have had to rebuild on a very small plot. The Institute administration eventually decided not to support the effort to connect streets into campus, having received generally negative feedback from alumni of both houses affected. The organization behind the effort also did not receive enough funding and is now looking at a project going south from the Fifth Street bridge.

We continue to maintain the chapter house property in good shape, with new carpeting in much of the house, a new computer-control exterior door access system, upgraded lighting, new bathroom fixtures, new stairwell paneling and exterior landscaping.

We have made arrangements next semester with the national fraternity to revitalize the undergraduate membership and rebuild its numbers. Please stay tuned for details.

Remember that keeping a chapter house on campus is a shared responsibility. We hope that we continue to receive alumni volunteer and financial support to enable our future success. Please find enclosed in this envelope an appeal form where you will be able to make your donations. As always, we appreciate your support.

HOMECOMING 2023 RECAP



Alumni and brothers at Homecoming

We were pleased to see many alumni this past October at Homecoming. It was a great time for all, and Georgia Tech topped it off with a win over the UNC Tar Heels.

If you have any photos or stories you wish to share from homecoming, please email them to our alumni communications partner at oneill@elevateims.com

UNDERGRADUATE UPDATE

The brothers are busy finalizing fall semester with officer transition and other activities.

Congratulations to the newly elected eboard, which will take office at the end of fall.

President – **Anish Vallabhaneni**
Operations Director – **Soe Sone**
Communications Director – **Josh Derival**
Programming Director – **Andrew Meyer**
Brotherhood Development Director – **Joseph Urso**
Recruitment Director – **Luigi Cedeno**
Risk Prevention and Wellness Director – **Jzi Taylor**
Finance Director – **Amrit Kolshi**
Standards Director – **John Holzman**

The officers have been busy submitting material for the national fraternity's 2023 Standards of Excellence program. Xi Chapter was one of the first two chapters accredited for this past year's accomplishments and as of mid-December is leading in the point totals among all ZBT chapters.

Recent semester highlights included fall rolling rush with three new members, a successful Glo-Hard Halloween party, and the once-a-semester brotherhood retreat.

The chapter will close out the semester with the graduation ceremony and dinner honoring graduating seniors in early December.

ZETA BETA TAU HOLIDAY CHALLENGE

Are you ready to take on our Holiday challenge?

Without all of us, the Xi chapter of Zeta Beta Tau simply does not exist. Your gifts can help to make this our best year yet. Are you in?

Why should you give back? Alumni contributions are at the heart of everything we do. Your gifts support every alumni experience, like our reunions and events, and make it possible for us to stay connected through news and updates. Our contributions also support our undergrad chapter and keep the house in good shape to stay competitive during recruitment.

Will you step up to lead the way by adding your name to the *Honor Roll of Donors*? Don't miss the chance to give back to the organization that defined our Georgia Tech experience. Even just \$10 will let your brothers know you're out there and you still care.

Help us make this giving year the strongest one yet. To give to the 2023-24 annual fund today, use either of these methods:

- Head to gtzbt.org/ways-to-give to donate online
- Mail a check to our donation processing center:

**Xi Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau –
Georgia Institute of Technology
Alumni Relations Processing Center
P.O. Box 7007
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007**

XI CHAPTER ON THE WEB

Are you plugged in to our Zeta Beta Tau at Georgia Tech social media page?



Follow us to reconnect with your Xi Chapter alumni buddies online, find out about upcoming virtual and in-person events, and keep up with the latest news from the chapter.



Chapter Facebook Page: [Zeta Beta Tau - GT](#)



**Alumni Facebook Page:
[ZBT Xi Chapter Georgia Tech Alumni Association](#)**



Instagram: [@gt_zbt](#)

THROWBACK ALUMNI PROFILES

We were looking through the archives and found this interview from **John Nott '07** that we featured in our alumni communications a couple years ago! Please enjoy this blast to the past in this interview:

We caught up with our very own **John Nott '07** and had the chance to ask him where life has taken him since ZBT, and his favorite experiences. Here's what he had to say:

John Nott '07

Where has life taken you since you graduated? Give us a brief recap up to this point including career and family highlights.

After School, I went to work for the company I interned with for a few summers, Griffith Engineering Inc. It was a small company and as an intern, I was the third employee. I had initially gotten the job through a friend and ZBT alum **Jaime Fernandez '04**. I wanted to stick around Atlanta due to connections with other brothers and the fact I was dating my future wife Michelle (our first date was a fraternity date night). I started at the bottom of Griffith when I joined full-time in fall 2007. The company had grown since my first days as intern, and I was 1 of 8 employees. As the company

“I had initially gotten the job through a friend and ZBT alum Jaime Fernandez '04.

continued to grow, I was given more responsibility. Also, I married my wife in 2008 and we bought our first home, a townhome in Peachtree Corners Circle in 2009. We spent the next 4 years with our cats and jobs, both of us moving up in our careers. In 2013, my efforts to deliver quality work and keep clients happy awarded me the opportunity to buy in a partner at my engineering firm. I consider it part hard work, part good luck with the situation, and part support from my wife that lead me to that opportunity. In 2014, my life changed even more with the birth of my daughter Savannah. She is incredible, smart, and totally a Daddy's girl. As she got moving around, we realized the smaller townhome we were in was not really big enough for our family. I think at that time, we were down to a couch, TV, and baby things in the living/dining room...nothing else. Luckily, both my career advancement, the economic upturn, and my wife's transition to the General Services Administration allowed us the means to make that move. In 2015, we purchased a home in Peachtree Corners in a Chattahoochee river neighborhood. It is a great area for Savannah to go to school and gave us the space to do more with our lives. Since then, my daughter and role in my company has only grown. While my company certainly felt the impact of COVID, we have ridden through it fairly well compared to many small businesses. Our family struggled to meet the demands of schooling our daughter with two full-time employed parents, but we made it through. Savannah has started back at school and that has been great for her socially, and mentally...and for

us too! On a personal level, I have enjoyed being a part of my neighborhood's ALTA tennis teams. I had played a lot in high school but let that lapse a bit in college and right after. With my wife, we have taken up a good bit of gardening, both outside and hydroponically in our basement. We also purchased a classic car last year for my wife to use since she is not a full-time remote employee and doesn't drive much anyway. It has been fun to have the ability to learn new skills as related to maintaining a vehicle like that.

What are the most important lessons you learned because of Zeta Beta Tau – Phi Epsilon Pi?

“The most valuable thing I learned was confidence.”

The most valuable thing I learned was confidence. That manifested in a number of ways but really gave me the ability to excel into a management role in my engineering company. I work with so many incredibly smart engineers that are held back in their careers because they lack the people skill to advance to the next level. Additionally, I learned real-world skills through recruiting challenges and pursuits. Recruiting taught me how to sell my organization to others. It taught me the value of believing in what you are selling, and that sincerity is your best tool.

When you look back on your time in Zeta Beta Tau – Phi Epsilon Pi, what moments do you tend to remember most?

The people and shared experiences are certainly the most impactful memories. Brotherhood retreats and just hanging out with brothers in the house stick with me. I grew up as an only child so it was very novel to me to have

“Brotherhood retreats and just hanging out with brothers in the house stick with me.

your brothers around all the time. It was such a blessing that no matter what was going on, there were usually at least 1 or 2 guys that were interested in hanging out.

Do you know of a brother who would make a great profile? Would you like to be profiled? Let us know at <https://gtzbt.org/alumni/submit-an-update/>!

Zeta Beta Tau is the place where we had a lot of firsts. It's the place where we first ventured out of our hometowns, the first place we bonded to on campus, and the place where we first learned the true meaning of friendship. Read on to see what one brother said on how Zeta Beta Tau impacted their life.

continued on page 4



ALUMNI PROFILES

Submit Yours Today!

Zeta Beta Tau alumni, we want to hear from you!

As you know, our communications regularly feature alumni profiles from brothers across all decades. We love publishing these stories because our alumni are the heart of everything we do, and now, we are looking for more alumni to participate!

When life gets in the way, it can become increasingly difficult to stay in touch with our Xi buddies. That is why we want to hear from you.

By participating in these profiles, you can share what you have been up to since the Zeta Beta Tau days, your favorite memories at the house, and what being a brother means to you. We will publish your responses in an upcoming communication in your own alumni profile.

If you are interested in participating in these alumni profile series, please email our alumni communications partner at oneill@elevateims.com and mention you are with Zeta Beta Tau and would like to participate!

We look forward to hearing from you!

Tell us YOUR story!

Your brothers would love to hear about what you're up to these days.

Visit www.gtzb.org and click on the Alumni Updates button on the menu bar.

It's quick, it's easy, your brothers will thank you.



How you can pay it forward to our Zeta Beta Tau actives

Zeta Beta Tau is a student-run, living-learning society that advances leadership skills, cultivates innovation, and promotes social responsibility by engaging the Zeta Beta Tau community and its resources through projects, events, and mentorship.

While active brothers are able to learn and develop through our traditions and amongst each other, it is evident that alumni involvement and connections are far more important now

than ever. Brothers of all ages can pay it forward to our actives by choosing to mentor the younger generations. We have the following positions available for mentoring: Facility and Operations Management, Chapter Advisements in Recruitment, Communications, Operations, and more. If you are looking to give back to the chapter in more than just donations this year. Consider being a mentor to our actives.

THROWBACK ALUMNI PROFILES

continued from page 3

Tom Sanders '74

For **Tom Sanders '74**, the lasting legacy of ZBT is the bond of friendship that stands the test of time. "I've stayed in contact with a few brothers over the years and manage to see a couple who live in Florida on my road trips to see relatives/in-laws who live in the southeast Georgia area," he said. "No matter how much time passes since seeing a brother, it always feels like yesterday."

How did Zeta Beta Tau impact you? Share your story with us and be featured in an upcoming eLetter, by going to: <https://gtzbt.org/alumni/submit-an-update/>

Do We Have Your Email Address?

Make sure you're kept up-to-date on the latest ZBT news by visiting our website (gtzbt.org) and viewing our email lost list at the bottom of the homepage. If your name is on the list, follow the directions to send us your contact info.

It's easier than ever to reconnect



Get Current News, Share Memories, See the Honor Roll, DONATE!
gtzbt.org

Make Your Gift

There are two ways to donate:

Return the form from your recent fundraising letter with your check to: Zach, Inc., Alumni Relations Office,
P.O. Box 7007, Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

Online at:
www.gtzb.org